

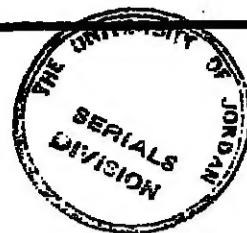
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alternative voice of
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Eighties has become
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20p



THE TIMES

No. 65,187

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10 1995

Public pay increases provoke union fury

By NICHOLAS WOOD
AND PHILIP BASSETT

A PAY deal for the most senior civil servants that could mean increases of up to £30,000 a year provoked a political outcry last night as the Government approved increases of 1.5-3.2 per cent for 1.3 million public servants.

Labour immediately accused ministers of having one law for the rich and another for the rest and unions in teaching and nursing gave warning of a spring of discontent with disruption of schools and hospitals. But ministers were inclined to view these as empty threats after years of relative industrial peace.

Ministers defended the new performance-related arrangements for a tiny Whitehall elite as essential to the policy of opening up the Civil Service to outsiders and attracting high-fliers from private industry.

The storm blew up after the Cabinet approved the recommendations of six independent pay review bodies. The protests were fuelled by the Cabinet's decision to guarantee nurses only 1 per cent extra and to make an additional 2 per cent conditional on local deals.

Ministers rejected phasing in the increases and accepted their advisers' proposals in full. These include the first steps towards dissolving the long-established system of nationally fixed pay rates for nurses and hospital consultants.

The main changes announced yesterday were: A 2.6 per cent rise for the armed forces with 160 senior officers getting 3.2 per cent; 1 per cent on national scales for nurses, midwives and paramedics, plus local negotiations leading to total increases of 1.5-3.0 per cent; 3 per cent for GPs and 2.5 per cent for dentists and hospital doctors; 2.5 per cent for judges and 2.7 per cent for 437,000 teachers.

There will be no automatic increase for civil servants in Grades 2 and 3, but 2.5 per cent of the pay bill will be available for performance-related rises. The new pay range

PUBLIC SECTOR PAY RISES

Teachers	2.7
Nurses	1min
Doctors	2.5
— GPs	3
— Consultants	5
Armed Forces — Senior	3.2
— Ranks	2.6
Judges	2.5
Civil servants	2.5

of £90,000-£150,000 applies to 35 top civil servants and ambassadors and will be operated by a new independent remuneration committee.

Rejecting suggestions that potential increases of 27 per cent were insensitive when many people were having to make do with much less, one senior Treasury aide pointed out that any rises would be overseen by an outside committee and that for the first time the pay of permanent secretaries was being related to their performance. Their salaries would be published and any increases would have to be justified. Officials doubted that the permanent secretaries currently in post would enjoy big rises.

But Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, condemned the disparity between top civil servants and groups such as nurses.

"This reinforces the Tories' reputation as the Government of unfairness, with one law for the rich and another for the rest. This is a divided Conservative party presiding over a divided Britain," he said. Leaders of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers are to recommend that its Easter conference authorise industrial action to protect members faced with "unreasonable class sizes". Nigel de Gruchy, the General Secretary, said: "The demand for action from our branches over class sizes is becoming irresistible."

Teachers could decide to take classes of no more than 30, and send other children home. The union said the pay deal was "one unfunded settle-

ment too many". The biggest teaching union, the National Union of Teachers, was more cautious. Doug McAvoy, the General Secretary, said the union would not be "bounced" into anything that would look like a "government victory".

School governors also attacked the deal. Simon Goodenough, the Chairman of the National Governors' Council said: "School governors will be greatly disappointed that the Government has ignored calls for full funding of the pay award."

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, said: "I know that this settlement will put pressure on local authority and school budgets. But it is for local authorities to give priority to front-line services, such as schools, and many authorities as well as schools have balances that they can draw on to help meet the cost of the settlement."

The review body, whose main recommendations were accepted in full, noted that schools had cash balances of more than £800 million, although its report acknowledged that the award would put extra pressure on staffing levels.

Local authorities joined the chorus of criticism. Saxon Spence, who chairs the Association of County Councils' education committee, said: "We are absolutely astounded that ministers could show such callous disregard for the education of our children. It is asking parents, schools and governors to pay the price of Government fiscal policy."

The Royal College of Midwives warned that its members would consider withdrawing goodwill and changing its policy of not taking industrial action. Julia Allison, the general secretary, said she was "totally disgusted" with the award. But the British Medical Association said the doctors' award would remove the threat of sanctions by hospital doctors if the Government had not accepted the review body's recommendations.

Public sector pay, page 9



Guy Delage arrives in Barbados, welcomed by his wife, son and brother-in-law

Atlantic swimmer's landfall

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PARIS

GUY DELAGE completed his swim across the Atlantic yesterday when he staggered ashore on Barbados to a hero's welcome — and the taunts from people at home in France who belittled his epic dip as a publicity stunt.

M. Delage, 42, hugged his two sons and wife Catherine after managing a stylish crawl to the water's edge. He expressed relief as well as regret at leaving the watery world where he had come to feel at home during his 55 days and 2,500 miles at sea, two thirds

of them spent on his high-tech raft. "It's finished for me. I will do another thing now," he said.

The French media, which dismissed him as a near crank when he left the Cape Verde Islands on December 16, switched to admiration as M. Delage neared his goal, surviving shark attack, storms and depression.

With tongue only partly in cheek, *Le Monde* yesterday called M. Delage "our poet swimmer" and suggested he run for the presidency. A month ago, *Le Monde* said the venture would put him in the record book "in between

the world accordion champion and the person who can eat the most snails".

However, the French Swimming Federation said he had merely made daily dips, albeit lasting up to ten hours a day. "You do not swim across the Atlantic like you cross the Channel," said the federation.

M. Delage last night dismissed the criticism as meaningless. The most harrowing moments came last month when he lost the raft in heavy seas and had to chase it for an hour and a half. "I was a little afraid because there were the sharks," he said.

Rifkind forces air chief to quit over cost of renovations

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AIR Chief Marshal Sir Sandy Wilson, one of the RAF's most senior commanders, yesterday was asked to resign from his £95,000 job in a confrontation with Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary.

Mr Rifkind told him he no longer had confidence in him as a top-level budget holder, after an independent report, now with ministers, highlighted his lack of judgment in seeking extra expenditure to refurbish his official residence.

Haynes Garth, at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, Sir Sandy, 53, is understood to have sought legal advice from a civilian lawyer yesterday before going to see Mr Rifkind.

The Defence Council, which is chaired by Mr Rifkind, has the power to ask any officer to resign if it feels this is an appropriate step but it is not clear whether such a decision has legal standing.

The meeting between Sir Sandy and Mr Rifkind took place yesterday afternoon in the Defence Secretary's office at the Ministry of Defence, after the independent report had been leaked to a national newspaper. Defence sources said only about five people at the most senior level in the MoD had seen the report by Sheila Masters, of KPMG Peat Marwick.

After the leak, which does not single out Sir Sandy for overall responsibility for the £387,000 spent on renovations, the air chief marshal who had been tipped to succeed to the top post of Chief of the Air Staff, is understood to have asked to see Mr Rifkind.

Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, the Chief of the Defence Staff, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, the Chief of the Air Staff, are also understood to have asked to see Mr Rifkind after the leak. Sir Sandy had been told that

he was expected to resign. On Wednesday he was called before Sir Michael who read out a prepared statement, making it clear that Mr Rifkind no longer had confidence in him.

As an air chief marshal, Sir Sandy would have expected to continue in the RAF for another four years until he was 57. By resigning he will lose his entitlement to another four years of pay, which will also affect his pension.

The demand by Mr Rifkind for his resignation represents the most bitter blow for the RAF since March last year, when Marshal of the Royal



Sir Sandy: saw civilian lawyer before meeting

Air Force Sir Peter Harding, then Chief of the Defence Staff, resigned after allegations by a Sunday newspaper that he had an affair with the ex-wife of a former defence minister.

Mr Rifkind's decision to hold Sir Sandy responsible for the catalogue of mistakes that led to the £387,000 bill has caused outrage within the RAF. The report itself has not been presented to the House of Commons and MPs will also be angry that Sir Sandy's resignation has been sought before the matter has been

Continued on page 2, col 4

Oxford's entrance exam is scrapped

By BEN PRESTON AND JOHN O'LEARY

OXFORD dons voted overwhelmingly yesterday to scrap the traditional entrance examination in a move designed to shed the university's elitist image and increase the number of students from state schools.

From autumn 1996, students who apply to Oxford colleges each year will be judged on their A-level results and their performance at interviews. However, the way was left open for colleges to use their own tests.

Ruth Deech, chairman of the Joint Undergraduate Admissions Committee and Principal of St Anne's College, described the decision taken by college representatives after a two-year review as "a major step forward". It would help the university to attract the brightest youngsters, regardless of background.

Pressure for the abolition of the examination has mounted since Cambridge abandoned its equivalent a decade ago. Unlike Cambridge, Oxford still takes a majority of its undergraduates from independent schools.

Mrs Deech, speaking after the 90-minute meeting, said she was surprised by the strength of support for abolition, with representatives voting by 24 to 6.

THE TIMES

30p ON SATURDAY



WEEKEND

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MAGAZINE

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The Tyrrell team's winning formula

Clarke puts case for EU but urges currency caution

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE yesterday defied the tide of Euroscepticism within the Cabinet and the Conservative Party with a passionate defence of Britain's place in Europe and the potential benefits of economic and monetary union.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer underlined his position as the Cabinet's foremost pro-European by dismissing the "knee-jerk reactions" of opponents of a single currency and rejecting their argument that it would lead to a European super-state.

Britain would not settle for observer status or become a sleeping partner in Europe, Mr Clarke declared, as he denied that handing decisions on interest rates to the European Union would "herald the end of the nation state".

In what was intended to be a contribution to John Major's efforts to find a stance on Europe that will unify both wings of his party, Mr Clarke set out the arguments both for and against a single currency, outlined the extra factors that Britain would take

into account before joining, and studiously avoiding stating that he favoured a single currency in principle, an omission that aides said would have been unlikely a year ago.

In an unashamedly pro-European address in London to the European Movement,

Clarke speech... 8
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the Chancellor left his audience in no doubt where his sympathies lay, even though he joined the Prime Minister in saying that an ill thought-out monetary union would do Europe harm.

Mr Clarke would have pleased the sceptics by his insistence — stronger than in the past — that monetary union could not proceed unless the economic conditions were right. But he will have incensed the hardliners by his clear implication that if those

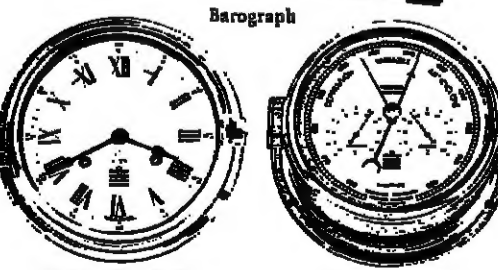
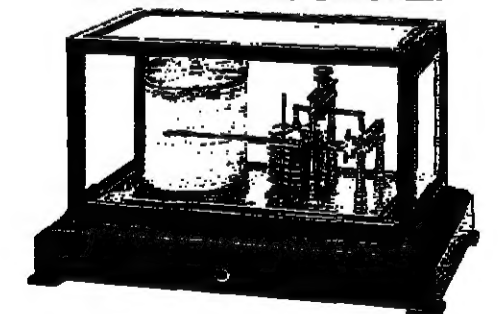
economic conditions were met he had no time for the constitutional objections raised by some of the sceptics. Mr Clarke's speech made no mention of a referendum, to which he remains opposed.

He declared that the decision on a single currency must be based on a "hard-headed assessment" of British national self-interest in terms of jobs, capital investment and selling goods and services in the world market.

His speech underlined the divide in the Tory party. In a move timed to coincide with the speech, almost 100 Tory MPs yesterday signed a broadly Euro-sceptic Commons motion, congratulating Mr Major on ruling out a single currency in 1997, and opposing Tony Blair's posture of support for one. The skilful drafting of the motion meant that it attracted MPs hitherto not considered as sceptics: the majority, however, appeared to be declaring their caution over monetary union. Mr Clarke called on Britain, like

Continued on page 2, col 3

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A day of embarrassing slips and leaks



Lord Lester: has shopped his mates

CAN ever a day have better illustrated the difference between the worlds of the Lords and the Commons, than yesterday? Over in the Lords, old codgers of infinite experience and unfathomable age muller over the issues of the day with judicious care.

Over in the Commons everyone was collapsing in giggles because a backbencher had said something which sounded like "urine".

In the House of Peers we started with an apology. Lord Lester of Herne Hill has recently turned journalists' mark and shopped his mates, claiming that some peers accept money to ask questions. Their Lordships are in uproar. To say food has been thrown in the Tea Room would be going too far, but Lester has had to keep out of range of loose tea-cakes. Not to put too fine a point on it,



MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

the noble Lord walks in fear of having his noble head shoved down the noble loo by his noble friends. Yesterday he apologised.

Or did he? With peers, as with penguins, behaviour patterns are subtle and complex. It needs the expertise of a parliamentary David Attenborough to interpret a slight inclination of a tilted head, the hint of a waggle of a noble bottom, the faintest aggrieved moo or half-murmured "my noble friend".

Kitted out in black suit and mournful expression, Lord Lester rose. He sounded fairly contrite. He did apologise for "risking blemishing" the House. He did speak of his

own "great personal distress". He even lowered his head and cast down his eyes upon resuming his seat.

But he did not withdraw the allegations. Indeed he implied that his error had been to commit them to a "memo" which had leaked ("by whom I know not") to the Press. He would explain his views to the Procedures Committee instead. He was heard in complete silence.

After Lester's bad dream came a nightmare any ordinary housewife might experience. In this nightmare you are at the dispatch box in the House of Lords and obliged to field hostile enquiries on a fearfully delicate matter —

part-military and part-legal. Your questioners are a Field Marshall and ex-Chief of the Imperial General Staff and the whole Defence Staff, a former Chief Justice, a former Home Secretary and a former Lord Chancellor.

The question yesterday was whether the framework under which Private Clegg has been sentenced to life should be changed. The ex-Chief of Defence Staff was Lord Carver; clear, terse and soldierly. The former Chief Justice was Lord Widgoff; authoritative and cross. The former Home Secretary was the expert Merlyn Rees. The retired Lord Chancellor was Lord Hailsham; clever, funny, brutal and patronising.

And at the dispatch box? The ordinary housewife was Baroness Blatch. For her there was no waking up, no relieved discovery that it was

only a dream. She really was a member of the Government. She really didn't know the answer. Her performance was heroic.

So I almost missed the roar from down the corridor. Someone had said "urine" in the Commons. Ian Bruce (C, Dorset S) was experiencing a nightmare of his own.

It had been his big moment: called to question the PM. He wanted to ask Mr Major about a committee. Disaster! In his nervousness he gabbled his name. It came out as "the all-party urine group". "Enticing!" said the PM. Everybody was laughing. Bruce couldn't see why. He was standing there in stunned embarrassment.

This morning he, too, may awake and hope that yesterday was a dream. Well, Mr Bruce, if you're reading this, it wasn't.

Lester refuses to retract payment allegation

By ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

LORD LESTER OF Herne Hill refused last night to retract his allegations of corruption in the House of Lords and appealed for an early opportunity to put his case.

In an unusual intervention at the start of yesterday's business in the Lords, the Liberal Democrat peer apologised for "risking blemishing" the House's reputation.

Lord Lester is deeply upset at his treatment by some peers, who have effectively blackballed him. He has told friends that he had no part in the leaking and he is angry that peers are shooting him down as the messenger rather than showing concern over the allegations.

In a statement over the leaking of evidence he gave to a committee about four Lords and several MPs he says took "substantial amounts of cash" for putting questions to ministers, Lord Lester said he regretted the leak.

But although peers and MPs have been calling for him to "put up or shut up" and Lord Cranborne, the Leader of the House, has told him it is his responsibility to substantiate the allegations, Lord Lester, a leading human rights lawyer, last night refused to give any names, saying his source, a client, had not divulged them. Instead he asked for an early opportunity to explain his views in public to the committee under Lord Griffiths, a former law lord, which is investigating the financial affairs of peers.

Members of the House of Lords are ruled by the ancient convention of personal honour and there are no rules specifically governing the payment of cash for questions or declarations of their financial and commercial interest. But in the current climate of concern about sleaze in public life Lord Griffiths's committee is looking at the case for a register of peers' interests.

To stony silence Lord Lester, who was created a peer two years ago, said the disclosure had caused him "great personal distress" and added: "I profoundly regret the embarrassment my note and its public disclosure have caused to the House and to another place."

Later Lord McIntosh of Haringey, deputy leader of the Opposition in the Lords and a member of the committee that was given the memo, agreed with Lord Lester that there was a problem. "Wide-spread payments by commercial organisations to members of the House of Lords are eating away at the credibility of Parliament," he said. But he said that Lord Lester's apology had not been helpful. "As a lawyer he should know that if you accuse someone of doing something wrong you have to give evidence to back it up. We don't want a queue of people coming here making damaging allegations."

Lord Pearson of Rannoch said: "Peers put far fewer questions down and always on one of their subjects of interest. A paid question would stick out like a sore thumb."

Lord Cranborne claims must be substantiated

Livestock ports face fresh protests

A fresh wave of protests is threatening to engulf Britain's ports as exporters step up livestock shipments in the wake of court rulings prohibiting harbours from turning away lawful trade.

Animal shipments resumed at Shoreham, in West Sussex, yesterday, while at Brightlingsea, Essex, activists were planning a large demonstration today in an attempt to stop the first lorryload of calves entering the small port, which has previously handled only sheep. Organisers predicted 2,000 people would protest.

Appeal ruled out

The Home Office has refused to refer to the Appeal Court the case of four paratroopers sentenced to community service for assaulting a man outside a nightclub. David Martin, a Tory MP, had complained that the sentences imposed at Winchester Crown Court on Tuesday were "grossly inadequate".

Drugs expulsion

A boy of 11 has been expelled from George Ward School in Melksham, Wiltshire, for selling drugs to pupils below the legal age. The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was caught after allegedly trying to sell a six-month-old ounce of cannabis to a 13-year-old who reported him to teachers.

Billing attacked

The Prime Minister condemned Eastern Electricity yesterday for sending bills to customers almost three weeks early. John Major told the Commons that he disapproved of the practice. Labour has condemned as "daylight robbery" the company's early billing, which enhances cash flow.

Leukaemia find

A new treatment for the commonest form of childhood leukaemia has produced encouraging results. The treatment uses a chemical extracted from soy beans and attached to an antibody. The results, using human leukaemia cells in a mouse, show that treatment can kill 99.99 per cent of cancer cells.

Abuser jailed

John Allen, 53, former head of the Bryn Alyn Children's Home in Wrexham, Clwyd, was jailed for six years yesterday for a series of sex offences against boys in his care. He was the seventh man to be convicted after an investigation covering 46 children's homes in Wales.

'Buster' finding

Buster Edwards, 63, the Great Train robber found hanging in a lock-up garage near his flower stall at Waterloo Station, London, last year, had drunk six times the drink-driving alcohol limit. Sir Montague Levine, the Southwark coroner, recorded an open verdict.

Rooted in history

Historic Scotland will use 500-year-old oaks from an ecologically managed wood for authentic reconstruction of the great hall at Stirling Castle. The work is part of £20 million improvements at Scotland's second most popular tourist attraction after Edinburgh Castle.

Mrs Anne Davis

Mrs Anne Davis asks us to make clear that a reference (February 2) to her being deregistered by Sutton social services for smacking a child in her care was incorrect. Mrs Davis was deregistered for refusing to give an undertaking never to smack, a decision which she successfully challenged in the courts.

Sinn Fein bugging claim halts peace talks at Stormont

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SINN FEIN suspended talks with government officials in Belfast yesterday after the party's security team claimed to have detected a listening device in private rooms set aside for its delegation.

Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland Minister, categorically denied that the Government had monitored the rooms at the Stormont Parliament buildings, but Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, said that the discovery was "potentially a very serious matter".

Mr Ancram said: "I understand as of this time nothing has been found, but the investigations are continuing. I would like categorically to state that any suggestion or inference that this room was in any way monitored by or on behalf of the British Government is totally without foundation. We want to see this process of exploratory dialogue continue to make good progress."

Martin McGuinness, heading the Sinn Fein delegation, led his team out of the talks after agreeing with government officials to postpone the meeting while police investigated the allegation. Two members of the party stayed behind at Stormont while the rooms were sealed for the RUC investigation.

The listening device was allegedly detected soon after the delegation arrived at Stormont when Sinn Fein's so-called security team carried out a routine sweep of a suite

of rooms set aside for the party's private use. Mr McGuinness immediately called in Quentin Thomas, the Deputy Secretary at the Northern Ireland Office who is leading the Government delegation. He agreed to seal the room and to postpone the talks.

At a press conference at Sinn Fein's headquarters in West Belfast, Mr McGuinness outlined what will be seen as one of the most bizarre developments in the peace process. He said: "We arrived at Stormont at around 1pm. Our security team brought to my attention a strong signal which they picked up during the routine sweep of the rooms which have been allocated to

us for the talks. I satisfied myself that there was indeed a signal and the advice from my security team was that there was a listening device in the room."

He added: "I contacted Quentin Thomas and invited him to our rooms. He came there accompanied by another member of the British delegation. All three of us established to our mutual satisfaction that there was indeed a signal."

Mr McGuinness stressed that Sinn Fein had not walked out of the talks, and that the party had agreed with the Government to postpone the meeting. He added that the party was keen to resume the talks once it was confident it could feel secure.

Sinn Fein would not be drawn further, but Mr Adams said preliminary reports suggested that the development was serious. He said: "If that room was being electronically monitored then as far as we are concerned that is a serious situation. What we are trying to do now is to resolve this matter so that the talks can continue in a secure environment."

The Northern Ireland Office yesterday denied that the Government had monitored the room. In a statement it said: "The head of the Government delegation said that any implication that the rooms were being monitored by, or on behalf of the Government, was without foundation."

Valerie Grove, page 15



Adams: trying to resolve the matter



The cost of renovations to the house in Gloucestershire came to £387,000

Air chief forced to quit

Continued from page 1 properly debated in the House. RAF sources said that as a senior civil servant, Sir Sandy was prevented from making any public comment about the affair.

The Masters report is known to be critical of a number of RAF officers and civil servants and traces the original authorisation for the work in 1992 to Air Chief Marshal Sir John Thompson, who was then commander-in-chief of RAF Support Command. Sir John died of a heart attack last year.

Defence sources said that Sir John approved the estimate, which was then

£250,000, because he believed the value of the house would appreciate significantly. Local estate agents valued Haynes, Garth at £500,000, but MoD valuers last year said it was worth only £250,000.

The report is understood to say that Sir Sandy asked for further renovation work to make the house more suitable for a four-star commander. Sir Sandy was assigned the residence when he became commander-in-chief of RAF Personnel and Training Command.

To cover the decorations needed after the demolition work had been carried out. Sir Sandy was told by Support Command that he could spend £60,000 for the interior work, including new soft furnishings and fabrics. "This figure was given to Sir Sandy and his wife, Mary," one source said.

The work included new bathrooms and a kitchen, a new roof and replacement of all the window millions. RAF officers last night supported Sir Sandy and there was anger at what appeared to be a high-level leak of allegations, designed to blight Sir Sandy's hopes of keeping his job. They called for the report to be published as soon as possible.

Clarke's EU case

Continued from page 1 the French and the Germans, to have the self-confidence to believe that European politics did not threaten national identity. Ridiculing the arguments of those who say that Britain should aim only for an economic role in Europe he said that was the position of Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein, "but does not match the history or ambition of the United Kingdom."

Mr Clarke said the single currency could improve the efficiency of the single market. By providing an exchange rate certainty that "alas" the ERM did not deliver, a single currency could lead to stronger trade and investment links to the benefit of all.

Monetary union could secure low inflation and lower and more stable interest rates over the medium term. "We could all benefit from being part of a Europe-wide low inflation zone, and a single currency would reduce the costs that businesses and tourists face every time they exchange money."

Turning to the pitfalls, Mr

Clarke said that an "ill thought out, ill-conceived monetary union would do Europe harm." He entirely understood those who after the unhappy experience of the ERM said that they would need persuading that a single currency was either feasible or desirable. A single currency would not work unless the participating economies were marching as one.

As expected Mr Clarke outlined the additional criteria that Britain felt would have to be met. He said there was a need to tackle deep-seated structural differences within Europe's economies, reflected by current account trade balances, unit labour costs, and differences in rates of productivity growth.

While Mr Clarke said it would be "folly" to make a decision now one way or the other, Britain must play a full part in work on monetary union before the choice was made.

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Norris has 'no cause for regret'

By KATE ALDERSON

THE Prime Minister came to the defence of Steven Norris, the Junior Transport Minister, yesterday and insisted in the Commons that his description of bus and train travellers as "dreadful human beings" had been "widely misinterpreted".

Mr Major said the point made by Mr Norris was that motorists' attitudes had to be changed "and I think few will disagree with that". He was replying at question time to John Townend, Tory MP for Bridlington, who said thousands of women agreed with Mr Norris that they felt intimidated, when using public transport, they had to sit next to a drunk, somebody high on drugs, or young thugs.

Mr Norris said he had "no regrets" about what he had said. His statement to a Commons select committee had been taken out of context, he

said during a visit to Manchester. "They are not words one regrets having spoken," he said. "But it is a sincere regret that people attempt to make a news story by taking a remark out of context."

After his visit Mr Norris, who is responsible for transport in London, was chauffeur-driven to Oldham to discuss local transport problems. After a second engagement in Stockport, where he unveiled a plaque in commemoration of two murdered Department of Transport inspectors, the minister returned to London by second class rail. He told photographers that his travel arrangements had been made two weeks ago. "I don't have to stage these things," he said. "I think that would be frankly pathetic."

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Letters, page 17



Lord Cranborne: claims must be substantiated

God is worth more than a football ticket, says bishop

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING evangelical bishop said yesterday that people who put less than £8 in the church collection plate but could afford to buy Premiership football tickets had "no sense of value" in God.

The Rt Rev Michael Baughen, Bishop of Chester, said too many people gave £1 a week or less when they could afford much more. Writing in the latest *Dioesan News*, Bishop Baughen said: "The cheapest seats for premier league football matches cost from £12 to £15 — even at lower division games the

cost is £8. Is our Lord worth less? Is his Church? For anyone, except the genuinely poor, to give £1 a week suggests no sense of value for our Lord and his kingdom — and yet over 30 per cent of regular givers are still giving £1 or less each week." He added: "As St Paul puts it, giving is a proof of the genuineness of your love for Christ, who, though he was rich, became poor for our sakes."

Referring to the Church of England's financial crisis, which led this week to the announcement that the Church Commissioners had put the MetroCentre up for sale, the bishop called for a "steady realistic

shouldering of the new situation, even if it does feel uncomfortable, until we get used to it."

His comments provoked controversy in Chester last night. Christine Russell, a councillor, said: "The bishop appears to be applying market forces to religion. People don't prove their Christian credentials by how much money they give to the Church."

Paul Goggins, of Church Action on Poverty, said: "We must resist at all stages putting any undue pressure on people who cannot afford to pay, and that is the risk of remarks like this. People must not feel stigmatised in any way." A spokesman

for Oxfam said: "We would only expect people to give what they were able."

The Bishop's chaplain, the Rev Tim Barker said: "This is clear Christian teaching about the importance of proportionate giving. The reason for the comparison with football tickets is to jolt people into thinking about the way prices have changed in a way that their giving might have not. He is not saying everyone should put £8 in the collection plate."

Mr Barker said: "He is referring to Deteronomy 16.16 and 17, which says people should bring such gifts as they can in proportion to the

blessing God has given them. He says clearly that for some £1 a week may be a reasonable proportion, but for those earning more, giving must be in proportion to what they are earning, which has always been the teaching of the Church and the Bible."

Only two out of five young people believe in God, according to a survey of 17,000 teenagers published today by researchers at Trinity College, Carmarthen. One in three is agnostic, and a quarter say that they are atheists. One quarter of the teenagers questioned had considered suicide, the report found.

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20 JAN 1995

ALF activist jailed for sending hoax bomb

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

AN ANIMAL rights activist who terrorised an eight-months pregnant woman with a hoax bomb and death threats was jailed for three years yesterday.

Niel Hansen, 28, sent a package by taxi to the home of Karen Gardner, a public relations officer with the pharmaceutical company Glaxo. It was detonated by an army bomb disposal squad who found that it contained cat litter.

Luton Crown Court was told that Hansen was trying to prevent the company from developing a £700 million research establishment in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, by discouraging staff recruitment. Glaxo spent more than £10,000 rehoming Mrs Gardner, 33, and her husband Colin after the bomb hoax and an attack in which paint was daubed on the couple's home in Stevenage.

Hansen is unemployed and a member of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), with previous convictions for arson and criminal damage to butchers' shops. Judge Ronald Moss told him: "I don't suppose that many of us will understand why many of you behave in the way you do. I imagine a large number of people sympathise with your

views but when they spill over and the rule of law is threatened then the courts have got to take a stand."

Hansen admitted sending the imitation bomb, and criminal damage. A charge of conspiracy to cause criminal damage was left on the file. Two charges against his girlfriend, Tracy Stephenson, 26, were left on file and she was allowed to leave the dock.

On October 21, 1993, Mrs Gardner and her husband visited friends, returning the next day to find the front of their house daubed in red paint and glass etching fluid which turned the windows opaque.

Two hours before they returned home the ALF held a press conference in an hotel in Hertford to report the attack and warn of future measures against Glaxo employees.

Two days after the incident Mr Gardner received a telephone call at home from a man saying: "Tell Karen she is dead." Then on November 1, 1993, a series of telephone calls was made to the couple's home from a public house in Stevenage. The third of these was taken by Mrs Gardner who said "Hello" but received no reply. A barmaid at the pub remembered seeing Hansen there.

Soon afterwards a man telephoned Stevenage library pretending to be Mr Gardner and saying that his wife had left a parcel there which he would send a taxi to collect.

Mrs Gardner took a further call saying: "Make sure you obey instructions in the note with the bomb or there will be a bloodbath." When the taxi arrived Mrs Gardner shouted at him not to get the package out of the boot but the driver, thinking it a joke, left it on the pavement and drove off.

After the case Mrs Gardner said: "Anyone who works in medical research is aware of the risk."

Letters, page 17

Norma Major, left, and Dame Joan Sutherland with the blood-stained costume she wore in the 1959 production of *Lucia di Lammermoor*

Blood and cheers at Sutherland auction

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

FOR Dame Joan Sutherland, the opera singer known as "La Stupenda", yesterday was a performance to remember. At an auction of 300 pieces of personal memorabilia, the blood-spattered costume that she wore in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Covent Garden in 1959 was sold for £5,750, twice the estimate.

The gown, designed by Franco Zeffirelli, the film director, who insisted it be heavily stained for the mad scene in Act III, was bought by the Royal Opera House for its archives. As the auctioneer's hammer fell, bidders broke into applause.

Some, it seemed, could remember Dame Joan in that original production, which first brought her international renown. Others would have seen her relive the role almost every year for a quarter of a century, at houses

from the Metropolitan to Minneapolis. For four decades, she dazzled audiences with her vocal range and technical prowess.

Four years after her last performance, Dame Joan, 68, sat towards the back of Sotheby's London saleroom, calmly noting prices fetched next to each catalogue entry. If first-night memories were flooding back as each lot was displayed, she was giving little away. From time to time, a devotee would ask for an autograph. One woman asked her to sign a fan that she had just bought from the collection.

Dame Joan amassed a huge collection of costumes, which she kept in an attic in her Swiss home, near Montreux. After the sale, which totalled nearly £216,200, she spoke of her relief at not having to take them home again. Asked what she



Norma Major had her eye on paste jewellery

thought the buyers would do with them, she answered: "I don't think anyone will make a patchwork out of them." One man who bought several costumes admitted he had no idea.

Karen Taylor, who organises walking tours of Kensington, West London, was delighted with the costume she bought for £460. "It's so

beautiful I could wear it. And it's from one of my favourite operas, *La Traviata*." She said that she had not intended to spend more than £200 until she had seen the opera identified. "Ooh, and it was Zeffirelli. Oh, my God, and she dies in this act."

Norma Major, wife of the Prime Minister and biographer of Dame Joan, was

another of those bidding for a souvenir. She told the opera star that she had her eye on paste jewellery from *La Traviata*. Mrs Major, who wrote the introduction to the auction catalogue, sat at the front of the saleroom, while someone else bid for her. It was not clear if she was after a collection of jewels from various 1960s *Traviata* productions, which sold for £977, and included crystal earrings, or for the ruby and diamond necklace worn in Zeffirelli's 1960 production, which fetched £862.

Although Sotheby's insisted that Mrs Major did not go home with a purchase, Mrs Major told Dame Joan that she was "happy with what I got". Dame Joan, who said that she had been emotional only when she saw the collection leave her house for Sotheby's, could not quite recall what that was.

Photograph, page 20

Prison for stressed nurse who attacked babies

BY ROBIN YOUNG

A SHORT-TEMPERED and overworked children's hospital nurse who attacked two babies in his care was jailed for five years yesterday.

Richard Coleman, 29, slammed a seven-week-old girl head-first against a wall leaving her with possible life-long brain damage. A seven-month-old boy received a broken arm after being picked up with a "pulling and twisting motion".

Passing sentence at Snarresbrook Crown Court, Judge Hitching told Coleman that it was clear both attacks were connected to emotionally demanding shifts of up to 12 hours at Great Ormond Street children's hospital in London. "They have a background of general stress arising from long hours at work and particular stresses relating to your family," he added that Coleman had "a particular personality that reacts and responds in a particular way to situations of stress".

Coleman, a father-of-two from Ilford, Essex, was convicted last year of causing grievous bodily harm to Dominic Judd and grievous bodily harm with intent to the baby girl, who cannot be named.

The court was told that while Dominic, now aged two, from Billericay, Essex, was being treated at Great Ormond Street, Coleman used the child's arm as a lever to haul him into the air and snapped the limb.

Seven months later he battered his second victim while caring for her at a private house. The girl was swung through the air against a wall and suffered two severe skull fractures, a brain haemorrhage and a broken ankle.

Dr Nigel Eastman, a psychiatrist, told the court that Coleman had "permanent and inherent" damage to his personality that was probably untreatable.

After the hearing Sir Anthony Tippet, Great Ormond Street chief executive, said that the incident was deeply regretted. "Nothing during Coleman's training had given rise to worries about his suitability as a children's nurse."



Judge Moss: "Not many understand your action."

Navy officers squared up over Wren at bonfire night disco

BY A STAFF REPORTER

TWO Royal Navy lieutenants were given a dressing down and fined by a court martial yesterday for squaring up to each other in a dispute over a Wren at a bonfire night discotheque. They were told their behaviour was "totally unacceptable in naval officers".

Andrew Mannister, a Sea King pilot with two years' operational flying in Bosnia and the commander's assistant at HMS Sultan shore base at Gosport, Hampshire, and Duncan Forer, described as "a larger than life character", were fined £1,000 and £650 respectively.

Mannister, whose defence counsel said he flew Radovan Karadzic to peace conferences while serving in Bosnia, and Forer had first swapped insults on the dance floor before going outside. At the court martial at Portsmouth they each admitted using threatening behaviour and provocative words.

The trouble flared at the junior officers' disco at HMS Sultan on November 5 last year. Wren Tunesco Coppock had gone to the disco at the invitation of Mannister, the organiser, although she had spent much of the time dancing with Forer, Lieutenant Commander Nick Hawkins. In the early hours, when the

disc jockey played the last dance, Forer had approached Mannister and introduced himself with a handshake, but then said: "You're lucky you haven't had your head kicked in tonight." Mannister replied: "Don't come that shit with me," adding: "We had better go outside." The two officers had then gone out through the patio door to a nearby road.

"Mannister adopted a karate-style pose. He was bouncing around, waving his arms and jabbing," the prosecution said. Forer had said: "You've chosen the wrong man," and the two had to be pulled apart. Mannister received a bruise on his forehead and Forer a cut lip.

Lieutenant Commander Rod Blain, for Forer, said he was an honest and forthright officer and perhaps those qualities were "rather stronger than his diplomacy".

Commander Michael Penfold, one of Forer's former commanding officers, told the court martial that Forer, 30, was a "larger than life" character, a captain of cricket and organiser of numerous other

events. He was very well liked. Lieutenant Commander Andrew Jameson, for Mannister, 26, said as organiser of the event he felt responsible for the evening's success and resolved three things. "One, he resolved not to drink too much, two to circulate, and three to get the evening going."

He was "flabbergasted" when Forer approached him and said he was lucky not to have had his head kicked in. He added: "He did not know what on earth he was talking about. When he said 'We had better go outside,' it was spontaneous. It meant let's avoid a scene in here."

Peter Jones, Commander of HMS Sultan, described Mannister as "very capable, alert, keen, and a great support". He remained as a commanding officer's assistant after the incident, he told the court martial.

Captain Anthony McEwan, president of the board, said: "We are in no doubt that this was a serious incident. Notwithstanding that neither of you sustained serious injury it was because you were physically separated by wiser messmates."

"Your behaviour is totally unacceptable in naval officers — by that I mean resorting to violence."



Mannister, left, who took the Wren to the dance, and Forer, who spent much of the time with her

Judge defends his sleeping dog

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A JUDGE'S dog was cleared yesterday of disrupting a court case with its snoring. Barty, a 12-year-old Springer spaniel, went on trial after Graham Gregory, a building equipment supplier, said that the noise prevented him from concentrating while giving evidence during a two-hour hearing over a disputed accountant's bill.

However, Judge Brandt, Barty's owner, threw out Mr Gregory's plea for a new hearing of the case at Colchester County Court, saying that the application was "ridiculous and fictitious". Judge Brandt, whose dog has slept at his feet in court for the past five years, said that Mr Gregory was "a gentleman who lacks anything in the way of integrity or scruples. It would have been

better if sleeping dogs had been left to lie where they were."

The judge made his comments after being told that Mr Gregory had a "peculiar sensitivity" to background noise and was unable to collect his thoughts during the hearing last month. He said that Mr Gregory had given people a great deal of enjoyment with his claim and for that he awarded him Brownie points.

"This is the first I have heard of his hearing condition and I am quite satisfied he was the only person who heard anything at all," Judge Brandt said. "There was absolutely nothing wrong with the original trial and I only wish he had the decency to apologise for all this. But he has not."

The court was told that nobody had ever complained about the dog's presence under the judge's bench and a tape recording of the original proceedings showed no evidence that he was snoring at the time. Barty was at his master's feet as usual during yesterday's hearing and quietly dozed through the discussion of his sleeping habits.

Mr Gregory, 41, of Stowmarket, Suffolk, who now faces a hefty legal bill in addition to the original £6,000 judgment, said afterwards: "The whole thing is like something out of Monty Python. But I won't be taking the judge's advice to let sleeping dogs lie. I am going to appeal."

Mr Gregory, who has written to the Lord Chancellor, said that he did not complain at the original hearing because he had no idea that there was a dog in court and thought that it might be the judge snoring.

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Flamboyant Blackpool Football Club owner arrested in dawn raid on country home

Millionaire held in inquiry into attacks on women

BY KATE ALDERSON AND JON ASHWORTH

OWEN OYSTON, the self-made socialist millionaire and owner of Blackpool Football Club, was arrested by police at his home in a dawn raid yesterday after allegations had been made of serious sexual assaults on women.

The 60-year-old businessman, one of the most prominent and flamboyant entrepreneurs in the Northwest, was still being questioned by detectives at a police station in south Manchester last night.

The arrest, by Greater Manchester Police, followed a five-month inquiry which began at a modelling agency in Manchester.

He was arrested at his 16th-century country manor, Cloughton Hall, near Lancaster, where he lives with his wife Vicky, a former Blackpool beauty queen whom he divorced and later remarried, and their five children. Six rare European bison graze in the 150 acres of land surrounding the Tudor hall, once owned by the Morse family.

Mr Oyston once dreamed of treading the boards as a big-league actor. He never made it, but that has not stopped him rising to become one of Britain's most theatrical business personalities. Life was



Vicky Oyston: married Owen Oyston twice

not always luxurious. At the depths of his attempts to break into acting in London, he was living on just one bottle of milk a day. He then took a job as a sewing machine salesman, and when the firm went bust Mr Oyston began his own company, which in turn collapsed, a year later, leaving him with just £7 in cash, a Jaguar car which was my pride and joy, and four gallons of petrol.

Known for his goatee beard, flowing grey locks and trademark stetson, he injected a welcome burst of colour into the somewhat grey business of buying and selling houses.

Raised in Blackpool, the son of a coal miner, Mr Oyston left school at 16 after passing "nothing more than a lamp-post", and had a go at acting before more mundane reality found him back in the North, working as a property salesman. He went on to wake up the staid world of estate agency, pioneering a "no sale, no fee" arrangement during the Sixties, and once famously tumbling backwards fully clothed into a swimming pool to promote his wares on television. The Oyston Estate Agency, with 89 offices, revolutionised the business, staying open late at night.

Two decades on, Oyston could claim to have built Britain's largest firm of family-owned estate agents. With deft timing — or perhaps plain luck — he sold out to Royal Insurance in 1987 for a tidy £30 million, shortly before the property market collapsed. He took over the debt-ridden News on Sunday, a left-wing tabloid, but it collapsed less than six months later. He remains the owner of the Lancashire Life magazines series.

He used the cash he made from the sale of his chain to build a media empire in the North West, with interests in a number of radio, publishing and cable television ventures.



Owen Oyston at Cloughton Hall, Lancaster, the Tudor house which is also home to six rare European bison

He took a controlling stake in Blackpool Football Club, and established a stud farm to breed his own racehorses.

Mr Oyston also turned his hand to broadcasting, founding Red Rose Radio in a converted church in Preston, and going on to buy various independent stations including Piccadilly Radio in Manchester and Red Dragon Radio in Cardiff. He became an outspoken critic of Margaret Thatcher. In 1988, arguably at the peak of his fortunes, Mr Oyston merged his radio in-

terests with the company behind the Miss World pageants to create Trans World Communications. The venture was not a success, and Eric Morley, the Miss World creator, later bought back his side of the business.

Mr Oyston resigned as chairman and chief executive of Trans World in July 1991 under pressure from shareholders angered by mounting losses at the radio group. He is reputed to have lost £2 million after the failure of the News on Sunday in 1987, the left-wing

tabloid launched in Manchester. He received substantial damages from The Sunday Times in 1991 on the settlement of a libel action brought over reports published in 1989 which dealt with share dealings involving him and Derbyshire council council pension funds.

He was dubbed a champagne socialist after he stood as a Labour candidate in local elections in Blackpool in the early 1960s. He recently announced plans for a £130 million astro-dome at the

resort.

Police charged two people with sex offences yesterday. Peter Martin, 54, a businessman and a former policeman, was accused of rape and Tracy Marie Graine, 23, in charge of a modelling agency, was charged with indecent assault.

The pair, who share a house in Sale, Greater Manchester, were remanded in custody by Trafford magistrates yesterday, pending further police inquiries. Both had previously been on bail accused of various indecent assaults.

Protests fail to keep drug clinic out of village

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A SALE will be completed today that will bring Europe's largest alcohol and drug rehabilitation clinic to a seaside Norfolk village in the face of fierce local opposition and claims of financial irregularity.

Work will start within four weeks on the 110-bed charity clinic at Mundesley Hospital. The centre, which will cater for heroin and crack addicts, is a short distance from a stone-built holiday chalet camp and caravan site.

Sir Ralph Howell, the local MP, referred the case to the National Audit Office after the building was sold to Adapt, a London charity, for £250,000 by the Anglia and Oxford Regional Health Authority. It had been put on the market for £500,000.

Sir Ralph, Tory MP for Norfolk North, said last night: "I have appealed direct to Virginia Bottomley [the Health Secretary] without success. I have written to the Comptroller General because I don't think taxpayers are being given a fair deal. It is being sold at a cut price."

Charities are paying the £1 million conversion costs. Local authorities, health authorities and probation services will pay the £440 weekly residential cost per patient.

Norman Southern, a parish councillor, said last night: "There is intense feeling against this. This is a family holiday resort. It is an unspoilt beauty spot. This will alter the character of the village forever."

Brian Arbery, Adapt's chief executive, said he had been taken aback by the intense opposition to the project, which did not require planning permission. He said: "We have chosen this site because it is in an isolated position. There is an increase in drug use in Norfolk and a need for this facility."

A spokeswoman for the regional health authority rejected accusations of financial irregularity over the sale. "We sold it for the best price on offer. It was the only tender which came in."

Cost of running private jail £8m more than Group 4 bid

BY RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE cost of running Britain's first privatised jail is £8 million more than the original bid made by the Group 4 security firm, the Commons Public Accounts Committee disclosed yesterday.

Committee members expressed concern that the figure was substantially higher than bargained for when the contract was awarded. The bid was £21.5 million over five years, but the actual cost is estimated to be £29.67 million.

MPs also criticised the Government's failure to give full details

about why Group 4 was chosen to run the Wolds remand jail on Humberside, which holds 320 male inmates. Tenders from two other firms were lower than Group 4's, one by £2.5 million.

MPs said that important items of expenditure such as water, gas and electricity were not included in the initial contract with Group 4. The Government had also significantly underestimated other costs.

"It is important that the full and true costs of running private sector prisons should be made known at the earliest opportunity, so direct and meaningful comparisons can be made with prisons managed by

the public sector," the report said. It welcomed the fact that the Prison Service intends to include the costs of utilities and maintenance in every future contract.

To avoid any question of impropriety, detailed reasons should always be recorded when a contract was not awarded to a firm that submitted the lowest bid and was deemed suitable for the job, the report said.

MPs on the committee took "particular interest" in the fact that Charles Erickson, one of the eight members of the evaluation panel which awarded the contract to Group 4, left the prison service after

the contract was awarded and had since joined the company. The MPs noted evidence from the Prison Service that the handling of Mr Erickson's move had complied with rules on the movement of staff between the public and private sectors and had been considered by the Cabinet Office.

The report highlighted the fact that the Home Office could withhold part or all of the monthly payment to Group 4 if performance was unsatisfactory, and that the Prison Service had said that, although there had been one or two failures to meet the contract, the penalty clause had not been in-

voked. Last night Derek Lewis, Director-General of the Prison Service, said it had been decided to exclude the cost of utilities from the cost.

"The bulk of the £8 million is simply costs that were known about at the time, which could not be precisely estimated, and which we chose to pay directly," he said.

The total cost of operating Wolds, including the £8 million, was £4 million less than the estimated cost of operating it in the public sector, he said. A lower bid than Group 4's to run the prison was not accepted because "price is not the only consideration".



Lewis: chose to exclude costs

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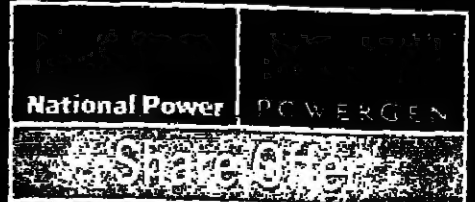
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Original

Ruling puts seizure powers in doubt

Britain ordered to pay costs to jailed drug trafficker

BY IAN MURRAY AND FRANCES GIBB

BRITAIN was ordered to pay a convicted drug trafficker nearly £14,000 in costs yesterday for penalising him under a law which had not come into force when his crimes were committed.

The European Court of Human Rights said it might also award damages if the Government failed to reach a settlement over any claim for compensation. The ruling casts doubt on the validity of part of the Drugs Trafficking Act 1986, used to confiscate money from convicted traffickers. The Home Office said the decision was "disappointing and frustrating".

David Maclean, the junior Home Office minister, said in Parliament: "The whole Commons shares the indignation of the decision these jurists have reached. The decision is not the view of the Government. We have robustly defended our corner. We shall reflect on it, but we remain convinced that the laws we have are just and appropriate for dealing with drug dealers." Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, condemned the ruling as alarming.

The Act says courts must assume that any money owned by a trafficker in the six years leading up to his arrest is the proceeds of trafficking. Orders for some £55 million of assets to be seized have reportedly been made since the Act came into force. Other convicted traffickers may now be able to use the judgment to try to overturn confiscation orders. The case involved Peter Welch, who was arrested in



Welch: fought against order to pay £67,000

November 1986 and charged with drug offences. He was found guilty in August 1988 and sentenced to 22 years' imprisonment. The judge made a confiscation order for £66,914 under the Act, which came into force in January 1987, two months after his arrest.

He was told that if he failed to pay he would be liable to serve a further two years. In 1990 the Appeal Court reduced his sentence by two years and the size of the confiscation order by £7,000. He appealed to the Commission of Human Rights on the ground that he was the victim of a penalty imposed by retrospective legislation. The confiscation order has not been enforced because of Welch's plea to Strasbourg.

Britain lost its argument that the confiscation was not a penalty but a method of recovering illicit gains. The court ruled that the confiscation was a penalty because of "the sweeping statutory assumption

that all property passing through the offenders hands over a six-year period is the fruit of drug trafficking unless he can prove otherwise."

The fact that any order was not limited to actual profit and that a trial judge had discretion to fix the sum all pointed to the confiscation being a penalty, the court said.

It emphasised that its ruling concerned only the retrospective application of the law. "[The court] did not call into question in any respect the powers of confiscation conferred on the courts as a weapon in the fight against the scourge of drug trafficking."

The Home Office said that this showed "the court's judgment does not mean that orders confiscating the proceeds of crime are contrary to the European Convention of Human Rights. The sole issue in the Welch case was whether the confiscation order is a penalty and whether it can be applied retrospectively."

Mr Welch, 56, was released on parole last August and is living in Wales. His solicitor, Roger Atter, said yesterday that his client was delighted with the outcome, although he would continue to campaign to establish his innocence of the drug trafficking charges.

Ben Emmerson, the barrister representing Welch, said that despite warnings before the legislation was introduced that it would breach the convention, "the Home Office has buried its head in the sand and built an entire legislative framework on the unsustainable framework that these confiscation orders are not criminal penalties. It was that myth that the court exposed."



PC James Seymour, left, and PC Simon Carroll. They were unarmed when Smith shot them outside a pub

Dealer who shot officers gets 25 years

BY A STAFF REPORTER

AN INTERNATIONAL drug dealer was jailed for a total of 25 years by the Old Bailey yesterday for shooting two police officers as he tried to escape justice. As he was led to the cells, Leroy Smith, 26, mimed firing a gun at the officers he had almost killed. Judge Richard Lowry told him: "Dreadful crimes must attract dreadful sentences."

Smith, of Wandsworth, south London, had escaped from prison when he shot PC James Seymour, 31, in the back and his colleague, PC Simon Carroll, 23, in the leg after they approached him in Brixton, south London, in

March last year. The judge said: "The courts must deter those who seek to impose gun law on sections of the community. The law must protect the community and police officers who carry out their duties courageously." He said he had watched Smith throughout the month-long trial and had perceived no sign of remorse.

Smith was approached by the two unarmed officers as he went to a pub used by drug dealers. After firing at the officers, Smith escaped on a motorbike and then fled to America, where he was later arrested in connection with

another shooting. David Walters, for the prosecution, said that while in the United States, Smith, believed to have connections to Jamaican Yardie drug gangs operating in Britain, boasted to his girlfriend about what he had done. He said he regretted that he had not "got them good and proper".

Smith was jailed for two years for the escape, 18 years for a firearms offence, and five years for robbery. He was also given a 25-year sentence for attempting to murder PC Seymour and 18 years for wounding PC Carroll, all sentences to run concurrently.



Leroy Smith: boasted about the shooting

Club told Cantona to escape TV crews

ERIC CANTONA, who allegedly failed to turn up for questioning by police on Wednesday, was told by Manchester United to leave his home because television crews were camped outside. Alex Ferguson, the club manager, said yesterday. He is understood to be on holiday in Antigua.

Police said on Wednesday that they were annoyed when Cantona failed to turn up for questioning at South Norwood police station, south London, about his attack on a Crystal Palace fan two weeks ago. However, Ferguson said that police knew Cantona would be going on holiday.

Ferguson, who was back at the club's Old Trafford headquarters yesterday after the team had taken a four-day break in Spain, said: "We had to get Eric away because television crews were camped outside his house and more and more were coming every day."

Ferguson's comments echoed those of Maurice Watkins, Cantona's solicitor, who said on Wednesday: "It is just not true that Eric Cantona has failed to turn up at South Norwood police station. No appointment had been made for him to appear because he is on holiday and the police were fully aware of this."

A Metropolitan Police spokesman said: "We have no powers to make him return to the United Kingdom but will be questioning him as soon as he returns."

Oil threat from warship sunk by Germans in 1939

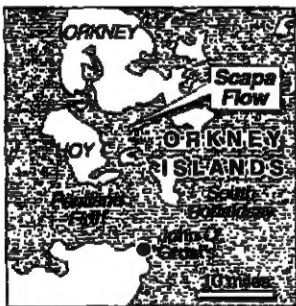
BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE battleship *Royal Oak*, torpedoed by the Germans at the beginning of the Second World War, is threatening to pollute the waters of Scapa Flow. Oil is seeping from the wreck and Royal Navy divers have begun investigating the extent of the hazard to the Orkney Islands.

The ship went down in 27 metres of water at midnight on October 13 1939, when 24 officers and 809 crewmen lost their lives as a U-boat torpedo found its target, and is an official war grave.

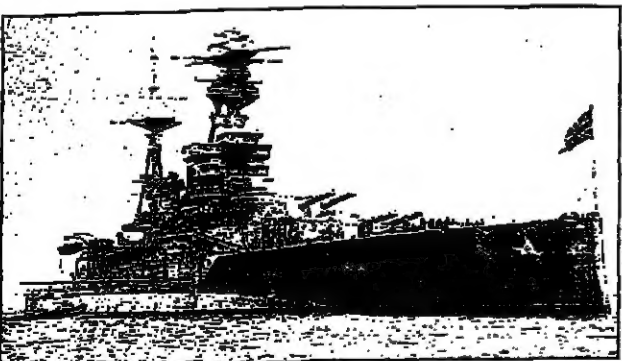
The battleship was carrying about 3,500 tonnes of diesel fuel when she sank. Fifty five years later, her hull is in such a corroded state there are fears of a major oil spill. Whales are regular visitors to the enclosed waters of the Flow, home to seals, divers, augs, sea duck and many species of fish.

David Flanagan, of Orkney Islands Council, said that over the years there has been



a steady trickle of oil and the sheen on the water where the ship sank is visible from the air. Experts from Rosyth naval base have taken photographs and samples and will send a report to the council in the next few weeks.

Scapa Flow, where the German High Seas Fleet scuttled itself at the end of the First World War, is a favourite diving ground for trophy hunters, and although civilians are forbidden to dive on *HMS Royal Oak* there have been claims that souvenir hunters have used explosives on the vessel.

The battleship *Royal Oak*: 833 of her crew died

Trust alters rules after body goes by courier

A HOSPITAL that sent the body of a still-born baby in a cardboard box by parcel delivery van for a post-mortem examination said yesterday that changes in procedures meant it would never happen again.

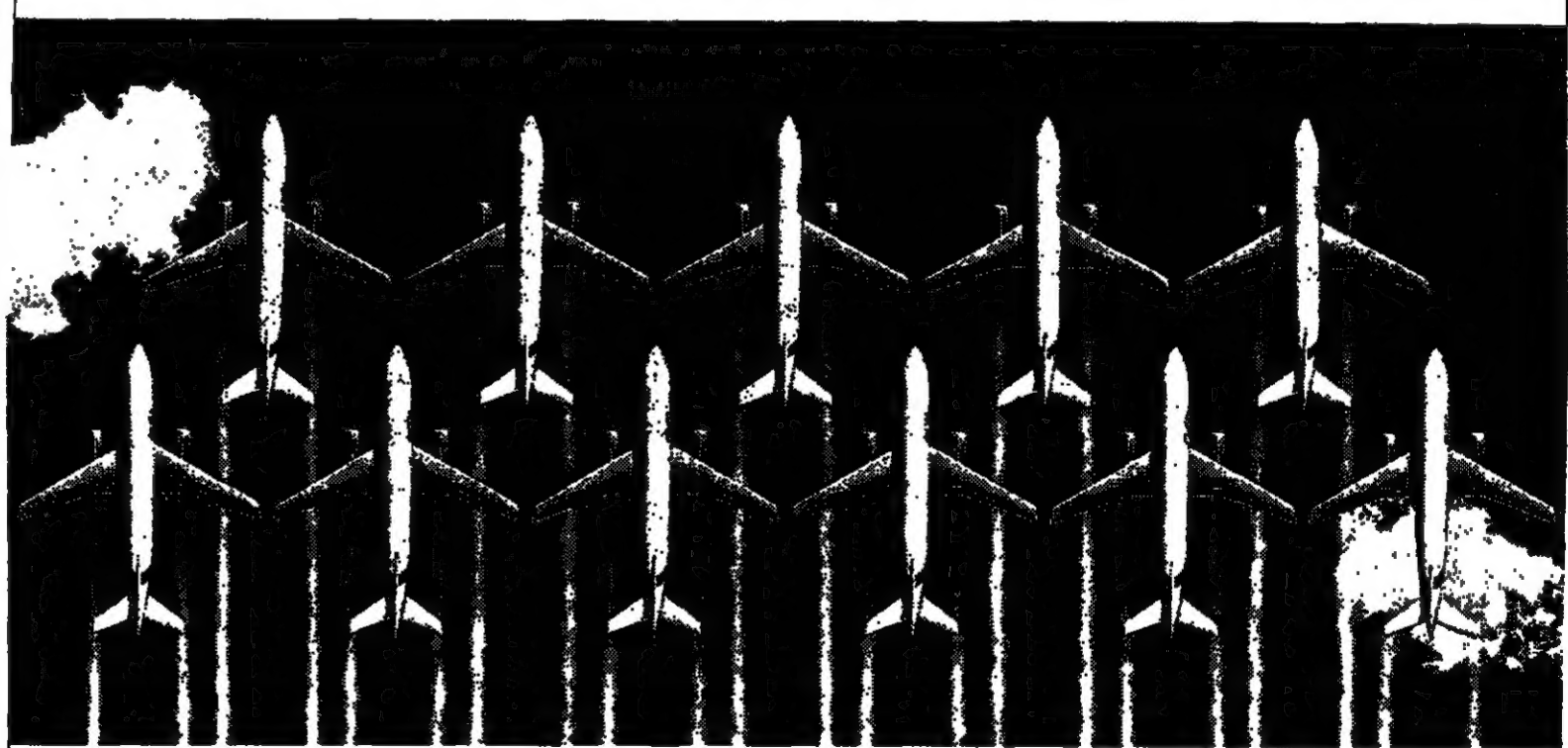
The changes came after an inquiry into the incident involving Wrexham Maelor Hospital NHS Trust in North Wales in November last year. Eddie Kinsella, the chief executive, said: "In future, we shall use coffins for still-born babies and provide the dignity and care of undertakers or special hospital transport."

Officials at the hospital were criticised after paying £50 to have the 7lb baby's body delivered to the University College Hospital, Cardiff, for examination. Mr Kinsella said reports that the baby fell out of the box or that fluid had leaked out were incorrect, but, because of an error in procedures, the couriers did not know what was in the parcel.

Mr Kinsella said: "The inquiry panel is absolutely satisfied that our staff acted in a very professional and caring manner. The problems centre around the transport." He added: "In future, parents will have a choice of using a funeral director or dedicated hospital transport. Parents will also be able to go with them if they wish."

"Our recommendations will be brought to the attention of the Welsh Office Health Department so that lessons learnt can be widely circulated across the NHS." He said the trust had repeated its apologies to the parents.

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Sweet gifts for a Valentine

VALENTINE'S Day treats include a presentation box of 12 red roses with a selection of handmade Belgian chocolates for £22.95 from Waitrose, delivered free to anywhere on the mainland (Marianne Darch writes).

Heart-shaped Belgian chocolates have been reduced to £1.99 for 200g at Budgens, and £1.99 for 200g at Sainsbury is tempting lovers with a Majestic Alabama Chocolate Fudge Cake for 99p. Tesco's new recipe Strawberry Gateau is £1.49. Best buys at Harrods include heart-shaped flower and leek mousse, both £2.75 each, and heart-shaped Coeur Fleuri cheese for £2.15 each.

There are further reductions on British beef and pork this

week. British Heritage beef top rump is reduced to £3.68 a lb at Safeway and at Asda British beef brisket is down to £1.79 a lb. At Sainsbury a boneless leg of British pork is £1.19 a lb and unsmoked British bacon 89p a lb. Traditional white fish is good

value, with large cod filets about £3.20 a lb. Best buys include: Asda: turkey breast steaks £1.79 a lb; mixed salad and peppers 99p for a 300g pack; 7 almond fingers 49p. Budgens: fresh chicken £3.99 for 5lb; steak and kidney pies £1.39 for 454g. Co-op: garden peas 24p for

283g; choc' and nut cornflakes 99p for 500g; Rich Tea biscuits 29p for 300g. Harrods: fresh rainbow trout £1.80 a lb; farmed salmon £5.50 a lb. Marks and Spencer: fish casserole £3.99; medium luxury bread and butter pudding £1.69; Chianti £3.49 for 75cl. Safeway: quiche lorraine £1.19 for 340g; crumpets 37p for 12; lemonade 26p for 2 litres. Sainsbury: unsmoked middle bacon 89p a lb; loose parsnips 45p a lb; 350g pepperoni pizza 99p. Tesco: fresh chicken quarters £1.29 a lb; extra mature Canadian cheddar £2.44 a lb; new potatoes 29p a lb. Waitrose: smoked haddock fillets £2.99 a lb; 3 half baguettes 69p; Waitrose dairy vanilla ice-cream 99p for one litre.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

'It's a mistake to believe that monetary union is a huge step on path to a federal Europe'

Clarke pleads for less dogma and more sense.

The following is an edited version of Kenneth Clarke's speech to the European Movement last night.

A POSITIVE role for Britain in Europe enhances our position in the world, benefits greatly our economy and ultimately strengthens, not weakens, the British nation.

Our goal should be a strong Britain in the heart of a strong Europe, a Europe of strong nation states acting together to further common interests where they exist, but retaining the essential features of national identity. The bottom line on every proposed new policy should always be: "Would this European policy be good for Britain?"

We should not feel guilty or apologetic about that. Germans ask if European policies are good for Germany, and Frenchmen ask if European policies are good for France. It is entirely right for each member state to ask if Europe is serving its legitimate national self-interest.

Active membership of the European Union does serve our national self-interest. The political achievements of the

European Community have been immense. Britain's political influence in the world remains strong — in the Security Council, in the G7 and in our special relationship with the United States. We are the key players now alongside and with our powerful neighbours and friends, France and Germany. We must now allow Britain to become marginalised in Europe.

The ability of British firms to compete in Europe will depend on the ability of the British Government to shape economic policy in Europe in support of British interests. But we will only be able to influence economic policy if we are prepared to engage in the political process with our partners in Europe.

Whether or not Britain should participate in a single currency is one of the most important economic policy decisions that the British Parliament will eventually have to make. At the moment discussion about it is producing more heat and less light than any other subject in British political debate.

Let me take a few moments to look at some of the economic

issues involved and separate them from the knee-jerk reactions that mention of the single currency all too often generates. What are the potential benefits? By reducing an element of instability and removing the risk of competitive devaluations, a single currency could improve the efficiency of the single market. By providing an exchange rate certainty that, alas, the ERM did not deliver, a single currency could lead to stronger trade and investment links to the benefit of all. Monetary union could — and I emphasise could — secure low inflation and lower and more stable interest rates over the medium term. We could all benefit from being part of a Europe-wide low-inflation zone. And, of course, a single currency within Europe would reduce the costs that businesses and tourists face every time they exchange money.

Of course, the adoption of a single currency would not be without its risks. An ill-thought-out, ill-conceived monetary union would do Europe harm. I entirely understand those who say that after the unhappy experience of our participation in the ERM they will need some persuading that a single currency is either feasible or desirable. The potential pitfalls of a single currency are well known. As the Prime Minister said last Friday: unless the economic conditions were right, a single currency would tear the European Union apart.

A single currency would not work unless the participating European economies were marching as one. The conditions for convergence of the European Union economies are unlikely to be in place for some time. The Maastricht treaty laid down guidelines for government debt, the budget deficit, inflation and long-term interest rates, which would certainly need to be satisfied before a single currency could be established. At the end of last year, at Essen, the forecasts predicted that by the end of 1996, the date from which a single currency could first be introduced, only Britain, Germany and Luxembourg seemed likely to satisfy these criteria. That is why I said about a year ago and have said several times since that



there is not a snowball's chance in Hades of Europe embarking successfully on economic and monetary union in 1997.

It would be folly for us to decide firmly now one way or the other simply in response to the short-term political pressures of today. As the Prime Minister said last week, "to say yes or no now is to operate on lunch not facts". That is why we opted at Maastricht to keep an open choice on whether or not we would decide to join EMU. We did so because we know that we must never again repeat the mistake of deciding to join in European policies late in the day after we had let the others write the rules. We also opted to play a full part in the work on EMU in order to influence that work before we exercised that choice.

The time has come for a sensible and an informed debate on these and many other serious issues. There are some in Europe who seem willing to disregard economic logic in a headlong dash for monetary union. For them, monetary

union is the necessary impetus to full political union. But the havoc that would result from a precipitous and badly prepared move to a single currency would undermine the political unity that the enthusiasts are seeking. At the other end of the spectrum are those who see any move to a single currency as an unacceptable undermining of this country's sovereignty that should be resisted at any cost.

Both these views are far too simplistic. They both assume that monetary union is a

gigantic step towards political union. For some that is seen as desirable. For others not so.

It is quite possible to have monetary union without political union. It is a mistake to believe that monetary union need be a huge step on the path to a federal Europe. The Austrian Schilling has been fixed against the Deutsche mark for thirteen years and Dutch short-term interest rates have not diverged from German rates by more than 0.8 per cent in 8 years. Yet nobody would deny that Austria and The Netherlands are

sovereign states. Britain and Ireland enjoyed a de facto monetary union for 50 years after Irish independence.

We must not allow the decision on whether or not to participate in a single currency to be clouded by political dogma. Any decision must be based on a hard-headed assessment of British national self-interest in terms of jobs, capital investment and our ability to sell our goods and services in world markets.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 16
Leading article, page 17

KEY QUESTIONS ABOUT EMU

What is Economic and Monetary Union? The proposal implies complete freedom of movement for people, goods, services and capital, irrevocably fixed exchange rates between the national currencies of the 15 states, the establishment of a single European central bank and a single currency — the ecu.

When might it happen? The final step, on which a decision is due next year, depends on the economic convergence of the participating states. All must be in the Exchange Rate Mechanism, from which Britain withdrew in 1992. Although no date for forming a single currency has been set, the target is 1999. Can some countries move ahead faster? A hard core of countries — such as Germany, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Austria and Ireland — are eager to move ahead. There is talk of a two or three-tier EMU, with poorer or reluctant countries such as Greece and Britain joining later.

What would happen to sterling after EMU? It would continue to be used, but would have a fixed ecu value. Is British business in favour? Opinion is divided. The Confederation of British Industry is against closing the door on EMU, pointing out that 53 per cent of exports go to the EU, while the Institute of Directors has pointed to difficulties for small business. The City is also split.

SPEAKING OF A SINGLE CURRENCY...

Kenneth Clarke, June 29, 1994: "I have always been a supporter of economic and monetary union."

Clarke, Feb 2, 1995: "The British are not committed. It's a two way choice. It's a choice that I hope we'll exercise sensibly."

Michael Heseltine, Feb 5, 1995: "I don't know whether there will be a single currency... all I know that there is work going on all the time... The only question for Britain is whether we take part in that work, and of course there is only one answer — we take part because if we don't the Germans and the French will design arrangements in their interests and not ours."

John Major, early 1994: "My instincts are not in favour of it... I can conceive circumstances a long time in the distance where it may conceivably be in our economic interests... I do not believe these circumstances

will apply for a very long time, certainly not this side of the turn of the century or probably a long time after."

Major, Jan 8, 1995: "If other people decided to go ahead in 1996 to 1997 with a single currency, I would not advise the British Parliament to follow them."

Major, Feb 3, 1995: "We cannot accept that sterling should be part of a single currency in 1996 or 1997."

Major, Feb 7, 1995: "As far as a single currency later this year is concerned we would require all the specific Maastricht criteria to be met. In addition, we would require other criteria to be met."

Jonathan Aitken, Feb 5, 1995: "I don't want to see a single currency, period."

Michael Portillo, May 1, 1994: "A [single currency] would mean giving up the government of the UK. No British government can give up the government of the UK. That's impossible."

Chancellor's view of European union reinforces party division

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Kenneth Clarke wants Britain to be in a position to enter a European single currency at the end of the century. That is the implicit aim of his economic policies and the explicit theme of his speech last night to the European Movement. Ostensibly, his purpose was to put forward a policy which could unify the Tory party. But his speech was a strong restatement of the pro-European case. It was a world away from the language used by the Cabinet sceptics.

The current manoeuvring is all about closing off and keeping open options. A month ago, John Major ruled out both British involvement in a single currency in 1996-97 and the necessary preparatory actions. Hard-core sceptics would like a Tory manifesto pledge against joining a single currency in the next Parliament. The pro-Europeans are determined to prevent that. They want to preserve the Maastricht treaty opt-out and leave the decision to Parliament at a later date by which time they hope that the economic and political pressures will have tilted in favour of joining.

The "keep calm" group,

headed by Douglas Hurd, argues that this is not an immediate question since very few countries, if any, will have fulfilled the treaty conditions for economic convergence by 1996-97. Hence, in the Foreign Secretary's characteristic words: "To say either yes or no now to the option which might occur in, say, 1999 would be quixotic and unnecessary."

The Tory party is not in such a rational mood. Mr Major last Friday put a sceptical gloss on the "open question" approach by saying that the Maastricht criteria are "a necessary but not a sufficient condition to justify a single currency."

Mr Clarke interpreted the agreed formula in a pro-European direction. His language may have been slightly more cautious than a year ago, but his intent was clear. He was less concerned to erect new hurdles to Britain's participation than to ensure that monetary union is created in such a way as to be successful. So Britain should be involved in designing how the European central bank should operate, not least to avoid the

problems since 1973 when Britain has sought to reform a Common Agricultural Policy designed to suit French and Italian interests.

Mr Clarke did not add new conditions. Rather he pointed out that the nominal guidelines for government debt, budget deficits, inflation rates and long-term interest rates are only part of the answer. In particular, he argued that countries with inflexible labour markets would be poor candidates since they would face higher unemployment and demand increased spending financed by transfers from rich countries.

The implication is that Greece and other Mediterranean countries should be outside any monetary union even in the unlikely prospect that they fulfilled the financial guidelines. By contrast, Britain, or so ministers claim, has the most flexible labour markets in Europe. So, on Mr Clarke's argument, Britain should be able to fulfil both the financial and the broader labour market criteria for participation in a

northern European dominated monetary union.

But, crucially, Mr Clarke disputed the sceptics' view that monetary union would mean an unacceptable surrender of sovereignty and mean political union. Mr Major has also raised these worries. But Mr Clarke argued that "it is a mistake to believe that monetary union need be a huge step on the path to a Federal Europe". Accepting that some pooling of sovereignty was involved, as in other aspects of the European Union, he said that "like the French and the Germans, we should have the self-confidence in ourselves to believe that European politics does not threaten our national identity".

Mr Clarke believes that there are neither insuperable economic nor fundamental political objections to British involvement in a single currency. He was deliberately silent on whether there should be a referendum on monetary union, which he still opposes, though even Mr Hurd has accepted it as a possibility. Mr Clarke's speech will not produce even a short-term truce in the Tory battle on Europe.

By PETER RIDDELL



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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer East	North-South game
♠ 2 ♥ AKQJ4 ♦ AQJ109 ♣ 10 ♠ 10 9 7 5 3 ♥ 10 8 2 ♦ 6 5 4	♠ KQJ9 ♥ AKJ ♦ 7 6 ♣ K873 ♠ A78543 ♥ 8 6 4 ♦ 9 5 3 ♣ 2
W 24 (2) Pass	N 24 (3) 5+ E 1NT (1) 24 (4) S 24 (4) All pass

Contract: Five Diamonds Doubled, by South. Opening lead: ♠10

By ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

(1) 15-17
(2) Transfer bid, showing any strength of hand with at least five hearts
(3) North's double showed an opening bid with diamonds
(4) Two Spades showed a maximum INT with a heart fit and spade values.

When Terence Reese was playing backgammon and we all gathered round to scoff, he would silence us with "watch and wonder". Today's deal, from the Romanian National Teams Championship, is a "watch and wonder" hand.

KEENE on CHESS

White Salov	Black Kamsky
1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nf3 Bg7 4 g3 0-0 5 Bg2 d6 6 0-0 Nbd7 7 Ne3 e5 8 e4 f5 9 Bx3 Pex4 10 Bx4 exd3 11 Nxd4 Nc5 12 Re1 a5 13 Bf4 Nf5 14 Bc3 Bc7 15 Qc2 Qc7 16 Rad1 Rxd8 17 Bg5 Bb8 18 Bb3 Bb7 19 Qd4 Nf5 20 Rf4 Bf5 21 Bf5	22 g45 23 Nf6 24 Bxg6 25 Qf2 26 Rf6 27 Bx6 28 Bx5 29 Qf7 30 Qd8+ 31 Nf4 32 Kf1 33 Rf1+

King's Indian Defence

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

In the balance

Previous games between Valery Salov and Gata Kamsky indicate that their playing strengths are roughly level. Additionally, both men have been extremely successful in the past year. The following entertaining draw shows them fighting each other to a standstill with a sequence of neat tactics.

White Salov
Black Kamsky
Linares 1993

Kamsky has seized what appears to be a decisive lead against Salov in the semifinals of the FIDE matches in Sanghi Nagar, India. Kamsky overwhelmed Salov in 35 moves yesterday to take a 2½-½ lead. In the other semifinal Anatoly Karpov suffered a setback, losing to Gelfand in 45 moves. Gelfand now leads 2-1.

Winning Move, page 40

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Armed

School governors fear increase in class sizes

TRAD2

First Briton floats out into the cold 240 miles above Earth

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE first spacewalk by a Briton, and also the first by a black astronaut, was cut short yesterday when both men complained of feeling cold.

Michael Foale and Bernard Harris had emerged into Discovery's cargo bay just after 12.10pm yesterday. Dr Foale's first words, though hardly memorable, had the virtue of being unscripted: "Golly, it's high, isn't it?" he said. "Don't look down," Dr Harris advised.

The two men had been scheduled to stay outside for five hours, testing improvements that have been made to the insulation of space suits, including thicker underwear, to enable astronauts to stay out for long periods constructing a space station.

Sitting on the shuttle's robot arm, they were moved into the darkness of Discovery's shadow, where temperatures fell as low as -125F. Clinging to one another 240 miles above the Earth, they waited motionless to see how cold they would get.

During this test, both men reported cold hands and feet. But it was not until later, when they were manhandling a satellite in the cargo bay, that their fingers got cold enough to worry Mission Control. They were instructed to stop work and start gathering tools and camera gear together. The space walk ended at 4.20pm.

While in the cargo bay the



Foale: kitted out for historic space walk

two astronauts had practised space station construction techniques by heaving a satellite to and fro. The Spartan satellite, released by Discovery two days earlier, had been recaptured by the robot arm after the shuttle successfully manoeuvred close to it yesterday morning.

While loose, Spartan had moved as far as 50 miles from Discovery, using a small telescope to observe the gas and dust between the stars. The data gathered will be analysed by scientists after Discovery returns to land at Kennedy Space Centre in Florida tomorrow.

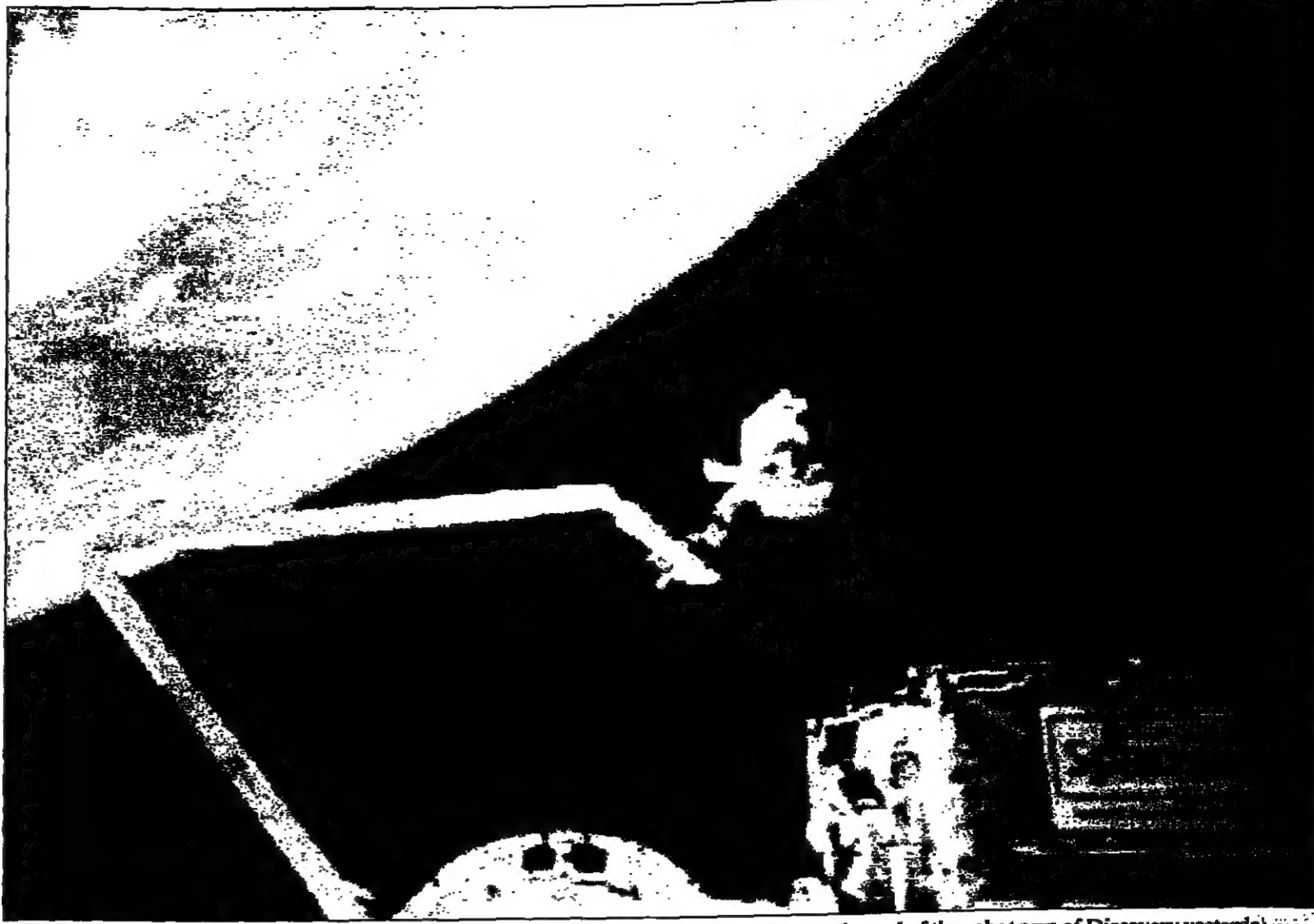
Dr Harris and Dr Foale were waiting in their space suits as Discovery sidled up to

the satellite and crewmate Janice Voss grabbed it with the robot arm. Dr Harris, one of two blacks among the space agency's 95 astronauts, was the first black spacewalker, while Dr Foale, who emigrated to America to achieve his ambition to fly in space, was the first British-born spacewalker.

Dr Harris used a handle that looked like a steering wheel to move the boxlike 5ft high satellite side-to-side, up-and-down, and end-over-end. Dr Foale was to have conducted the same tests, but he and Dr Harris were complaining so much about icy fingers that NASA told them to put Spartan in its berthing platform and get back inside. The shuttle cargo bay also was pointed toward the sun, and both men said they warmed up. "Sounds like we put you in the deep freeze today," Eileen Collins, the Discovery pilot, told them. "It was like putting my fingers in that liquid nitrogen freezer we have [at NASA]," Dr Foale said.

Apart from Monday, when Discovery made its close approach to the Russian Mir space station, yesterday was the busiest in the eight-day mission.

While the mission has been a success, the two spacewalkers' experiences suggest that NASA has more to do before astronauts can safely spend long hours in the shade building the space station.



Astronauts Bernard Harris, left, and Michael Foale cling to each other as they float at the end of the robot arm of Discovery yesterday

Greece thwarts EU customs deal with Turkey

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

GREECE yesterday rejected a European Union proposal for a customs union with Turkey, reversing its earlier conditional acceptance and throwing into uncertainty a promise by the Fifteen to open talks with Cyprus on EU membership.

A government spokesman in Athens said after a special cabinet meeting that the Government of Andreas Papandreu believed there was room for improvement in the package. Unless the proposals were enhanced, Athens would continue to oppose the deal.

The Greek announcement appears to scupper the preliminary agreement reached by the 15 Foreign Ministers on Monday which would have lifted the Greek veto on the proposed EU customs union

in return for a guarantee that accession talks with Cyprus would begin no later than six months after the inter-governmental conference next year.

The Greek decision will cause consternation among its 14 EU partners. Their patience with Athens has already been stretched over its veto on Mediterranean funds for Turkey, and over its blockade of Macedonia. The decision will also be a bitter disappointment to the Cypriot Government, which welcomed the EU commitment to open talks on accession.

Cypriot diplomats yesterday refused to condemn Greece, but suggested that the decision had more to do with internal Greek politics than any quarrel with the Greek Cypriots.

President Karamanlis of Greece is stepping down in April, and the Socialist Government of Mr Papandreu wants a Socialist candidate to succeed him, but cannot be sure of enough votes. The opposition has already taunted the Government for being ready to accept a deal that gives Turkey an advantage without bringing anything to Greece in return. Mr Papandreu needs the votes of opposition MPs, especially those who have taken a more nationalist stance on Macedonia, the former Yugoslav republic, and Cyprus.

An EU customs union would bring tougher competition for many Greek products, especially textiles and fruit. Athens has also made much of

recent confrontations with Turkey concerning airspace over the Aegean Sea, and cannot now be seen to offer concessions to Ankara without driving a very hard bargain.

President Clerides of Cyprus said on Tuesday that he welcomed the EU decision as a "very positive step" opening the way for Cyprus's accession to the EU. He spoke of the "close co-operation and co-ordination" between the Greek and Cyprus Governments.

It is unclear now whether the EU will continue to honour its promise to open accession talks late next year or in 1997 if Athens continues to block the customs union. France, which holds the EU presidency and put forward

this package, is likely to seek a way of getting round the Greek decision or will propose a new package to satisfy the objections. EU talks with Turkey are due to resume on March 7.

The Greek spokesman said yesterday that Mr Papandreu will send representatives to all EU Governments outlining his objections. They are likely to get a frosty reception, especially from Germany, which is a strong supporter of closer relations with Turkey and backs the proposed package.

Greece also made it clear that it objected to the "negative climate" of Monday's meeting, which clearly blamed it for the present impasse. Yesterday's decision, however, will do

nothing to win understanding from the other partners for the Greek point of view.

Before the Greek announcement, Turkey also made clear its unhappiness with the package, saying that the admission of south Cyprus to the EU before a fair and lasting settlement would create "very serious obstacles in the way of a solution". Murat Karayalcin, the Foreign Minister, said the EU application by the Cypriot Government disregarded the Turkish community.

On a visit to northern Cyprus, Mr Karayalcin tried to quell fears that Ankara was making big concessions to Greece on Cyprus, saying that there was no change in Turkey's policy.

Conscription ends as Belgian armed forces are slashed

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

IN THE European dash to cash in the peace dividend offered by the end of the Cold War, no country has gone as far so fast as Belgium: the Government here passed a milestone yesterday by announcing the end of conscription.

Five years after the Soviet bloc and its Warsaw Pact alliance began falling apart, NATO's 16 members wrangle in public about Chechnya and Bosnia while quietly slimming their armies, air forces and navies. Belgium has put its military on the strictest diet seen throughout the alliance. From 106,000 men in uniform in 1990, the Belgian Government wants to cut that by more than half to 47,000 by the end of 1997.

After a cabinet meeting yesterday, the Defence Ministry announced that 816 conscripts currently enlisted would now be told to go home by the end of the month. Seven thousand relieved young people on the call-up list will be told that their services are no longer required. Five years

ago, Belgium had 35,000 militiamen on compulsory national service and has relied on conscription for 86 years.

The dismantling of much of the Belgian military reflects a wider but less drastic shrinkage in all the states which built up huge armies during the Cold War. Belgium's defence budget has been reduced by 25 per cent in the past two years alone. Only Germany has cut its defence spending more sharply.

Belgium may have refused to sell ammunition to Britain during the Gulf War, but has been selling a great deal of its equipment. Karel Pinxten, the Defence Minister, has recently been searching for money to replace the mortars issued to Belgium's parachute commandos which, he said, were 50 years old.

Waterloo remembered: Soldiers from ten nations will reenact the Battle of Waterloo on June 18 to mark the 100th anniversary of Napoleon's defeat by Britain and his allies, the organisers said. (Reuters)



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Italians scorn suggestions that pasta might cause obesity

Italian blood boils over snub to pasta

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

ITALIANS were incandescent yesterday after an American report questioned the virtues of eating pasta in what the media described as a "nationalistic campaign" against the Mediterranean diet.

"This is simply paradoxical," said Professor Eugenio Del Toma, the president of the Italian Association of Dietetics. "There are physiological rules that cannot be subverted. It seems impossible to me that the Americans are the ones saying such things. They were the ones who in the 1950s carried out excellent studies on the Mediterranean diet."

The fuss started after American scientists, who once preached the virtue of a low-fat, high-carbohydrate diet ruled that pasta can, after all, make you fat — and it's not just the sauce.

"Basta to Pasta," The New York Times declared after a front-page article pronounced that starchy foods were "the enemy again". The Rome newspaper *Il Messaggero* said that the report would make Americans think that pasta was "like a Mediterranean lover — very sensual but so very treacherous".

Ever since fatty food was put on the watch-list a decade ago, dieters have complained that they still gain weight when they switch to a low-fat regime rich with simple carbohydrates like pasta. Scientists say that recent research into the role of the hormone insulin suggests that simple carbohy-

drates may be causing weight gain.

Insulin processes sugar and starch, stimulating the liver to convert excess glucose into fat. The more insulin you produce, the more likely it is that you will convert dietary calories into fat. But about a quarter of Americans are "insulin resistant", meaning that they respond to sugar and starch by overproducing glucose, which then causes an overproduction of insulin and a resulting increase in fat.

Insulin resistance used to help people get through lean times by increasing the storage of energy as fat in times of plenty. But in today's world of excess, insulin resistance can cause steady weight gain.

Many dieticians now believe that the solution is a move away from simple carbohydrates like pasta towards a diet rich in complex carbohydrates like vegetables.

Dr Barry Sears, a researcher whose insulin-related diet tips helped Stanford University's swimming team win the college championship, has developed a regime that is higher in protein and lower in starch than is now common for sportsmen. The goal is to put people at peak performance.

Linda Carelli of Weight Watchers International, whose husband is an Italian-American, preaches old-fashioned common sense. "Pasta is a wonderful food. It's a question of over-indulgence."



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In more traditional vein, you could hear the LSO's performance of Tippett's *The Mask of Time* on February 26. Sir Colin Davis conducts the orchestra with the London Symphony Chorus. A full list of concerts available in London was printed on Tuesday and a regional listing will be printed next Tuesday.

To book your 20p tickets collect six of the tokens we are publishing during the next two weeks and then choose your concert. When you buy one ticket at the full price you will receive a second for just 20p.



FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

The Chinese have projected themselves as more sinned against than sinning in the piracy dispute. Last night, in a new twist, they were even claiming that Chinese computers were under attack from an American computer virus programmed to destroy data and disable whole systems in April, according to the official Xinhua news agency. The

Most envoys here believe that the leadership to follow Mr Deng is likely to veer at least somewhat towards the left, and fall back on the not very successful state sector of the economy, which still com-

"It will be difficult for us if prices go up five or six times but it cannot be helped—it is the price of joining international society," said Mr Guo, aged 58, a worker. "But if you invent something it belongs to you."



Indian women queue up

to vote in Nagpur as the city v

ent to the polls yesterday

believed to have been persuaded to do so by President Sharma to reduce his workload and clear some of the backlog of unsigned documents. Mr Rao, 73, has had heart bypass surgery and has made a number of secret visits

The Cabinet now has five new members — still short of a full quota. The new entrants include Aji Singh, who left the rival Janata Dal (People's Party) in 1993 and allied himself with Mr Rao. He will help the Prime Minister's

By JAMES PRINGLE

Chen Jian, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said: "Chinese local fishing authorities had built shelter facilities on the reef in question with the

In Manila, the Government released pictures yesterday showing Chinese vessels and Chinese-built structures on

Chinese-built structures on the islands. Renato de Villa, the defence chief, said the photographs confirmed the Chinese flag flying over four structures.

foreign firms, fearing Chinese intrusion into the profitable space business, may have brought the rocket down with an electronic signal.

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, 27, was said to have had explosives hidden inside toy cars in his suitcase when he was

Four Muslim fundamentalists have been convicted for the bombing and 12 others are on trial in New York for a related conspiracy to launch a "day of terror" in New York. Prosecutors say Mr Yousef

The Government offered a \$2 million reward for his arrest. Last month two people held in the Philippines for planning to assassinate the Pope implicated Mr. Yousef. He fled from the Philippines but was arrested on Tuesday and handed over to America.

his political future' is uncertain. The results of the state polls will be announced simultaneously next month, and serious defeats could embolden Mr Singh to relaunch his challenge. The most important state going to the polls is Maharashtra, of which Bombay is the capital. Congress has been defeated there only once, in 1978, and its loss would be particularly damaging to Mr Rao's standing.

Mr Singh's allies claim the

For all the mounting despair about Mr Rao's performance, there is still a good chance that he will lead the party into the next election, if only because there are no viable alternatives. He was brought out of retirement as a compromise leader after Mr Gandhi's assassination.

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

Nobody knows how many tigers are left, but it is almost certainly substantially less than the official tally of 4,300, a number which, if true, would give India more than half the world's tiger population. Some estimates have put the number of Indian tigers at about 2,500.

Billy Arjan Singh, India's leading tiger conservationist, said the tiger population had "crashed". Census authorities inflated estimates of the tiger population to please their superiors in Project Tiger. Despite repeated warnings, international groups continued to accept figures supplied by project officials.

There are 17 wildlife sanctuaries under Project Tiger, almost every one of which is under siege from poachers, neglected because of funds, untended because of civil unrest or threatened by overgrazing by livestock. Some game wardens are suspected of conniving with poachers.

Panna National Park in the central state of Madhya Pradesh, the latest to be brought into Project Tiger, has an official count of 23 tigers and 17 panthers. Local conservationists and forest guides say, however, that there are 15 tigers at most. Three years ago, the official count was 44. Part of the problem is the inexperience of enumerators who count the same marks several times.

Pravin Kumar Chaudhary, director of the 350-square mile

A map of India with a focus on the central region. A scale bar indicates 200 miles. Delhi is marked with a dot in the northwest. To the north, the border with Nepal is shown. In the central part, Kanpur is marked. A box labeled 'Madhya Pradesh' is shown, and within it, 'Panna National Park' is highlighted. The word 'INDIA' is written across the bottom of the map. In the bottom left corner, there is a small inset map of the world showing India's location. In the bottom right corner, the 'Bay of Bengal' is labeled.

Panna park, said the tigers' habitat was threatened by overgrazing by cattle. Several villages within the park supported 7,000 head of livestock and in the monsoon another 40,000 to 50,000 cattle were driven in by farmers.

Three villages have been forcibly closed and the rest will be closed within five or six years. Families are given 50,000 rupees (1,015) compensation to leave. It is hoped to increase this to 75,000 rupees. Game wardens will attempt to restrict the number of cattle.

Mr Chaudhary said that the park management had asked for 70 million rupees from Project Tiger to move people out of the park and establish the infrastructure and environment to save the tigers. Cattle owners sometimes poisoned tigers to stop them attacking livestock.

Project Tiger was launched 20 years ago by Indira Gandhi, the late Prime Minister, when the official tiger population was 2,000. Conservationists estimate that at least 800 have been killed in the past five years.

With aid from the United Nations Development Programme, the Government has opened a Tiger Crisis Cell to work with intelligence agencies to combat poaching. The biggest threat, however, is the destruction of habitat for agriculture and grazing.

சுயாதாயகம் துணை:

**FROM LAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON**

THE agreement with America for North Korea to freeze its nuclear weapons programme was in danger of breaking down yesterday.

Officials in Washington said they were prepared to back out of the accord reached last October if the North Koreans refused to co-operate with South Korea.

Pyongyang is refusing to resume dialogue with Seoul, one of the agreement's provisions, and is also rejecting two new light-water reactors from South Korea.

Winston Lord, US Assistant Secretary of State for the region, insisted that North Korea reopen high-level talks with South Korea, which were broken off after the death of Kim Il Sung, the North Korean dictator, last July. "We're prepared to lose the whole agreement unless they agree to that in principle," Mr Lord said. He added that North Korea's refusal to accept South Korean reactors would also be a "deal-breaker".

North Korea yesterday reiterated its rejection of a north-south dialogue. A statement carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency said it was "preposterous" to try to equate implementing the agreement with talks between the two Koreas. Pyongyang also demanded that America pay up to \$1 billion (£645 million) more than was in the agreement to prop up their decrepit power grid, an idea Washington dismissed.

According to the agreement, North Korea was to halt all activity at an antiquated graphite reactor, suspected of producing plutonium for one or two nuclear weapons, and to suspend construction of two more graphite reactors.

In exchange, Pyongyang would receive two efficient, lightweight reactors from which weapons-grade plutonium is more difficult to extract. A private, American-led consortium is underwriting the project, with South Korea and Japan bearing 80 per cent of the cost of \$4 billion, American negotiators say. It was made quite clear to the North Koreans that South Korea would supply the reactors, although the agreement does not say so. Washington believes that Pyongyang is in a last-ditch ploy over having to accept South Korean reactors.

[illegible]

Pretoria refuses to send troops for UN's Angola force

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG AND SAM KILEY

THE South African Government said yesterday that it would not send troops to Angola as part of the United Nations peacekeeping force.

However, South African soldiers might help to remove mines, or provide logistical support to members of the UN force from Botswana or Zimbabwe.

Troops were sent by the apartheid administration to fight in the war against the Cuban-backed government forces in Angola, and Luanda has been unwilling to have them back, even since President Mandela's election victory. Some South African soldiers have, however, returned to help train Angolans in the techniques of lifting mines.

Alexandra Rodrigues, the Angolan Ambassador to Pretoria, yesterday met Mr Mandela and received an offer of help to find an estimated 26 million mines in the country. "We discussed sending soldiers to help in the demining process. We will decide how many soldiers will go next week," Mr Rodrigues said.

The UN Security Council has authorised a 7,000-member peacekeeping force for Angola in a second effort to end Africa's longest-running civil war. The vote on Wednesday was unanimous and Brazil, Uruguay, Romania, India, Pakistan and Zimbabwe have offered infantry for the task. About 500 British troops may help with logistics.

At least 500,000 Angolans have been killed since independence from Portugal in 1975, perhaps a third of them since the UN-sponsored elec-

tions collapsed in 1991 and the civil war resumed. Very few rebel Unita troops, and only slightly more government soldiers, had been demobilised before the election. Both sides hid weapons from UN observers, who did not have the mandate to guard or destroy armories. Violations of the ceasefire agreements were seldom publicised by the UN for fear of derailing the whole process.

Now, the UN has a tougher mandate, for peacekeeping rather than observing. Both sides can be expected to continue trying to cheat, just in case they decide to go back to war.

Both sides can be expected to continue trying to cheat, just in case they decide to go back to war

war. The success of their new mission will depend largely on the UN's ability to forget about its failure in Somalia. The images of dead American soldiers being dragged through the streets of Mogadishu and the memory of more than 130 peacekeepers who have died in Somalia since 1992, have become a pressing concern among UN military planners in New York.

The Security Council's resolution approves 6,450 infantry troops, 265 military staff, 350 military observers, 260 civilian police, 65 mine-clearing experts and at least 100 civil-

ian staff. The mission is expected to be in Angola for a maximum of two years at an annual cost of \$383 million (£243 million).

However, the bulk of the forces will not be deployed until government troops and Unita forces disengage and "quarantined areas" are designated for the rebel. Under an accord signed last November in Zambia, Unita fighters not destined for integration into the national army are to be demobilised; some are to be recruited in a police force.

The pivotal figure to the success or failure of the peace agreement is Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader. This week, the rebel movement held its first congress since 1990 in Bailundo, central Angola, and Dr Savimbi made a rare public appearance. "I do not think I am moved by the ambition of being President provided... I can play my role where I feel used and where I feel useful," he said.

"Everything has its time and its ways. If Jose Eduardo dos Santos is President now, we accept him as such provided he governs the country as we Angolans want, because we fought for this country. If he wants to fight us, then we do not think that he is the President we deserve," Dr Savimbi said.

If the UN can apply a tough and even hand during the demobilisation of Unita and its integration with the government forces, the blue helmets may have some chance of success in defusing the distrust between the two sides.

But the 7,000 peacekeepers face a daunting task. They will



Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, in a rare public appearance in Angola this week

have to police an area the size of Britain, France and Spain. Angola is perhaps the most heavily mined country in the world, with an average of 2.5 mines for each of the ten million population. Few roads are passable because of the mines and the UN soldiers will need a huge fleet of

aircraft for transport, although there are not yet been any international pledges to cover this need. The UN will also find it difficult to control arms shipments along Angola's Atlantic coast, and its porous border with Zaïre.

Angolan government forces and Unita rebels have begun

their military disengagement. General Chris Garuba, who is leading the UN military operation, said yesterday in Luanda. Government and Unita troops have started pulling back from confrontation lines at Huambo in the centre and Uije in the north, under the terms of the ceasefire.

Rabin and Arafat fail to break peace impasse

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A SUMMIT attempt to revive the ailing Middle East peace process failed yesterday when Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Prime Minister, held their most acrimonious meeting since the outline accord was signed in Washington 17 months ago.

Officials on both sides said that the two men failed during more than two hours of talks to resolve any of the main disagreements holding up implementation of a process which is rapidly losing credibility among Israelis and Arabs. The only agreement was to meet again next week at the same location, a heavily-guarded base on the frontier between Israel and the newly-autonomous Gaza Strip.

The threat to the peace process posed by Palestinian extremists determined to sabotage the talks was underlined shortly before the meeting when a bomb exploded close to the Jewish settlement of Netzarim in Gaza; a second booby-trapped device was dismantled. The attack, in which no one was injured, took place only miles from the spot on Monday where an Israeli civilian guard was killed and another wounded.

The main sticking points were Israel's insistence that the PLO impose tougher security measures against Islamic militants and other radicals in Gaza, and Mr Arafat's demand for an immediate end to Jewish settlement building and to the border closure which has kept 60,000 Palestinians from work in Israel for nearly three weeks. The Israeli Government attempted to play down the seriousness of

the impasse but the PLO was in no doubt about the dangers facing a process which is marked by deepening distrust on both sides.

"I think there is a crisis, a real crisis," Yasser Arafat, the influential Palestinian Information Minister, said. "There are two tendencies and two approaches."

Uri Dromi, chief spokesman of the Israeli Government, expressed scepticism about PLO claims to have clamped down on Palestinian extremists who have killed 55 Jews since last October and prompted a large number of Israelis to question the worth of continuing with the experiment which only two months ago won the Nobel Peace Prize. Mr Dromi claimed that suspects detained by the Palestinian police had soon been released again. "The big problem is lack of resolve to deal with terrorism," he added.

Palestinian disillusionment with Israel's reluctance to move ahead to the next phase of the peace process — troop withdrawal from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Palestinian elections — has increased because yesterday's summit followed a 48-hour security clampdown in which the Palestinian police arrested about 100 radicals in Gaza and ordered the setting up of an Egyptian-style military court to try those accused of security offences.

Yossi Sarid, Israel's Environment Minister and one of those attending yesterday's meeting, admitted that the atmosphere had been unhappy. "We had great difficulties and differences," said the minister, regarded as one of the leading doves in Israel's centre-left Cabinet. "The commitment of the Government is first and foremost to the safety of the citizens of Israel. Our national security interests come before anything else."

The failure of the summit encouraged right-wing opposition parties in Israel, which are committed to scrapping the peace deal with the PLO if they return to power in the election next year. Since the recent wave of Islamic suicide attacks, opinion polls have shown the main Likud opposition grouping as heading for a landslide victory.



Rabin wants to see militants curbed

White South Africans struggle for jobs

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

A BUSINESS science graduate made national headlines here last night when, in desperation, he tied his CV and a job application to a homing pigeon and dispatched the bird to a Cape Town retail company. Intrigued by his novel approach, the company granted him an interview.

The story speaks volumes about white jobseekers in the new South Africa. Adrian Clayton, 24, had spent several months trying to get an interview. He noted gloomily: "For the first time in my life, my colour is working against me."

Affirmative action programmes have led to such a demand for black recruits that once-privileged white graduates are struggling to find work. So quickly is the picture

changing that many white-controlled companies will not even interview whites with first-class qualifications, saying they are only looking for black recruits. A survey last month disclosed that 87 per cent of companies have implemented such programmes.

Thrust upon a weak economy, affirmative action is turning the white job market upside down. "When my father graduated in the 1960s the doors were open," said Vanessa Valkin, 22, a psychology masters graduate from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. "Now you have to be black to get through the doors."

Worst hit are white males, particularly Afrikaans speakers who traditionally found

sheltered employment in the public sector.

Andrew Swart, a careers consultant at the University of the Witwatersrand, said only 10 to 15 per cent of white graduates are finding work through university channels. There has been a shift from the public sector towards full-time or part-time work in the private sector.

Professor Deon van der Merwe, of the Rand Afrikaans University, said: "We advise students to obtain skills that will allow them to be their own boss."

The perception that the African National Congress is trying to swap one race group for another, allowing blacks with inferior academic records to be shoehorned through higher

education and into well-paid jobs, is breeding insecurity and resentment.

Returning this week for the start of the academic year, black and white students clashed in Johannesburg and Bloemfontein. "A lot of white students were saying this is racism in reverse and they are angry," Ms Valkin said.

There is no easy answer. Black South Africans make up 75 per cent of the 40 million population but less than 2 per cent of managers are black. What is clear is that imagination and hard work are essential for any young white South African. Some will emigrate but the overwhelming majority seem to accept that there must be a shift in emphasis after the apartheid years.

Nigeria civil servants take over ministries

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN LAGOS

SENIOR civil servants yesterday took over the running of Nigeria's federal ministries after the military junta dissolved the executive Government, a source said here.

The ministries are to be run by their directors-general in place of ministers in the Federal Executive Council, which was abolished by General Sani Abacha's regime on Wednesday.

Announcing the dissolution in the capital, Abuja, Oladipo Diya, General Abacha's deputy, said the aim was to allow ministers time to participate in the associations that are forming in anticipation of political activity being legalised.

The junta, which seized

power in November 1993, then scrapped all political institutions. However, it vowed eventually to restore democratic civilian rule.

General Diya said that in view of the formation of new political groups it would be "unfair" to ministers who "we have called on board to allow them to be marginalised by these political associations". Some ministers had indicated their intention to leave and General Abacha had commended their "vision and spirit of nationalism", having agreed to serve at "the time the nation was almost sinking".

General Abacha had been expected to lift the ban on political parties last month.

Italian is killed in Somalia

Mogadishu: An Italian cameraman was killed and four people wounded in separate attacks in Somalia as supporters of General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the warlord, protested against the American-led evacuation of United Nations troops.

Marcello Palmisano was shot dead in an ambush yesterday and an Italian woman and three Somalis were hurt when their car was fired on. About 2,500 US Marines are expected to assist the departing UN peacekeeping forces. (Reuters)

Asylum denied
Canberra: Australia's Parliament has passed tough new laws denying asylum to hundreds of Asian boat people in detention in the country, bringing them closer to deportation. (Reuters)

Minister fired
Khartoum: Hussein Abu Saleh, the Sudanese Foreign Minister, has lost his job in a large-scale Cabinet reshuffle. He has been replaced by Ali Taha, a former Social Planning Minister. (AFP)

Officer quits
Johannesburg: Lieutenant-General Johan le Roux, one of four senior South African police officers accused of supplying arms to opponents of the African National Congress, is to retire early. (AFP)

Rebel is ill
Geneva: Abassi Madani, head of Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front, is in hospital and his deputy, Ali Belhaj, under house arrest at a new location. Algeria's Foreign Minister said. (AFP)

Ghost busters
Harare: Police used teargas to disperse a crowd of 1,000 gathered outside a house hoping to see the ghost of a woman knitting — burglars had told a maid they had seen it to scare her off. (AFP)

Israelis jail soldier for using cell phone

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE Israeli army, reputedly one of the most modern and technology-conscious in the world, has declared war on the widespread use of cellular phones — known in Hebrew as "miracle phones" — by soldiers on duty.

Yesterday, in what Israel Radio described as the first court martial of its kind, a soldier serving in the air force was sentenced to four days in detention for making a personal call from his mobile phone while guarding his base.

Military sources said that prosecution of the soldier was intended as a deterrent to others who have ignored the recent clampdown which restricts the use of private phones to barracks and common rooms.

The army was stung to action by repeated reports that soldiers in occupied south Lebanon had been using their mobile phones to order take-away pizzas for midnight delivery to the border.

Other incidents involved soldiers making calls to their loved ones just before they were due to go into action against Islamic extremists from the Hezbollah (Party of God) group, which is fighting a war of attrition against Israel and its local allies, the South Lebanon Army.

Terrorist attacks had made a mobile phone a valued part of the kit of any soldier able to afford one. At the site of last month's suicide bombing at a junction used by soldiers near the resort of Netanya, many of the survivors of the blast, which killed 21 Jews and wounded 62, begged journalists for the use of their portable phones to ring relatives and reassure them.

The craze for mobile telephones is so great that a leading rabbi had to step in last month and ban their use inside synagogues. He said that use of the phones was interfering with worshippers' communication with God.

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Lack of cash forces Quayle to quit presidential race

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

DAN QUAYLE, the former Vice-President shocked the Republican Party yesterday by announcing he would not stand for President in 1996.

A spokesman said Mr Quayle had been "extremely excited and fired up" about running but had found it difficult to raise money. "The financial aspect of it threw a bucket of cold water on his enthusiasm."

Mr Quayle became the third prominent Republican after Jack Kemp, the former Housing Secretary, and Richard Cheney, the former Defence Secretary, to drop out this year. All three said they were put off by the need to raise roughly \$20 million (£13 million) to compete in a primary season effectively compressed into a mere seven weeks by California's unprecedentedly early contest.

The Republican field now looks surprisingly thin, despite President Clinton's vulnerability. The only three heavyweight contenders are Robert Dole, the Senate leader, Senator Phil Gramm of Texas and Lamar Alexander, the former Education Secretary.

They could yet be joined by Pete Wilson, who as Governor of California should be able to raise a lot of money quickly.

Senators Richard Lugar of Indiana and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, the conservative commentator Pat Buchanan, and two or three other state governors are also thinking of running, but they would be long-shot candidates.

Mr Quayle's decision came as a complete surprise as he had already assembled the beginnings of a campaign team and announced his intention formally to declare his candidacy within the next few weeks. He had long ago rejected the advice of friends who believed he should stand for Governor of Indiana in 1996 and build a solid record to run on in 2000.

He had a narrow but fervent base of conservative and Christian Right supporters. He had worked hard to dispel his lightweight image, touring the country last year to promote a revisionist autobiography that sold over 500,000 copies. He pioneered the "family values" issue that is now so

fashionable, and could boast four years experience in the White House. Indeed nine of the last 11 vice-presidents have gone on to be their party's nominee or president.

Mr Quayle has twice been admitted to hospital in recent months, once for a blood clot in the lung and once to have his appendix removed, but aides insisted health was not a factor in his withdrawal.

Mr Quayle's abrupt withdrawal was certain to spark an instant battle amongst the remaining candidates for his base, with Mr Gramm the likely beneficiary. The Texan is an arch-conservative whereas Mr Dole and Mr Alexander are relative moderates. All three have been preparing for their campaigns and Mr Quayle may have found fundraising difficult because they had got in first.

The presidential election campaign will formally begin with the Iowa caucus on February 12 1996. The California primary is on March 26, and when that is over 70 per cent of delegates to the nominating convention will have been chosen.



Two boys perched on the rubble of a wrecked building in Pereira yesterday

Arrest of defence witness a blow to O.J. Simpson

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A WOMAN whose evidence might have offered a new explanation for the killings of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman has been arrested on charges of defrauding a hotel chain of \$23,000 (£15,000).

Mary Anne Gerchak, a Los Angeles jeweller with a record of bad cheques and unpaid loans that has spawned 37 lawsuits against her, had told defence lawyers in the O.J. Simpson murder trial that she had seen four men, none of them Mr Simpson, leaving the scene of the crime on the evening of the killings.

In a blow for Mr Simpson's defence, Ms Gerchak turned herself in to police on Wednesday after being accused of failing to pay her bill for a three-month hotel stay while her home was being remodelled after the 1994 Los Angeles earthquake.

Johnnie Cochran, Mr Simpson's chief lawyer, stunned the court in his opening statement last month with a forecast of Ms Gerchak's evidence, sending prosecutors scrambling to discredit the surprise witness before she could take the stand.

Marcia Clark, Mr Cochran's opposite number on the prosecution, denounced Ms Gerchak as "a pathological

liar and known Simpson groupie".

Ms Gerchak's arrest will come as consolation to Mr Hodgman, who was expected to return to the prosecution in a low-key management role. In his absence, Ms Clark sought to establish by painstaking questioning of neighbours who heard and saw Ms Brown's dog on the night of the murders that they took place at around 10.15pm.

One witness, who admitted organising his evenings around television programmes and claimed he could therefore time his movements precisely, said he encountered the blood-spattered dog when he took his own dog out for a walk at 10.33pm on June 12 last year, after that night's *Dick Van Dyke* Show.

The witness's neighbour, Sukru Boztepe, gave evidence that the dog led him to the scene of the killings later that night. Looking up Ms Brown's garden path, "I saw a lady lying down, full of blood", Mr Boztepe said.

Cross-examining every witness, defence lawyers probed for vagueness. They hope to show that the murders could have occurred as late as 11pm, by which time Mr Simpson was meeting a car to take him to the airport.

Fulbright dies at 89 in Washington

Washington: Former Senator J. William Fulbright, an outspoken critic of the Vietnam war and President Clinton's first political role model, died in Washington yesterday after a stroke (see Brodie writes). He was 89 and had been in poor health.

Mr Fulbright said his proudest achievement was creation of the Fulbright scholarships exchange programme, under which 100,000 foreigners have studied in the United States and more than 65,000 Americans have studied overseas. Mr Clinton said: "If it hadn't been for him I don't think I'd be here today."

Obituary, page 19

Clinton nominee gives new abortion account

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

HENRY FOSTER, President Clinton's embattled nominee for the post of US Surgeon General, generated still more controversy yesterday by offering yet another account of how many abortions he performed.

Dr Foster said he had actually performed 39 abortions and oversaw an experiment with a drug that caused 55 more. Still unexplained is a transcript of a 1978 government hearing that quotes Dr Foster as saying he had "done a lot of amniocenteses and therapeutic abortions, probably near 700".

Some Republican senators demanded that Mr Clinton withdraw Dr Foster's nomination, saying the Nashville obstetrician had not only performed abortions but misled Congress. Dan Nickles of Oklahoma confirmed the general view that the nomination was now in "serious trouble".

Even Barbara Mikulski, a liberal Democrat, gave Dr Foster only a "50-50 chance" of confirmation. Dr Foster insisted that the President remained "totally committed" to his nomination. His latest abortion count came during a television interview that was supposed to launch a counter-offensive, emphasising his distinguished record as a deliverer of 10,000 babies and campaigner against teenage pregnancy.

Dozens die in Colombia earthquake

Pereira, Colombia: Rescuers searched through rubble yesterday for survivors of an earthquake that killed at least 37 people and injured more than 230 in this industrial city in the heart of the coffee belt.

The 4.0-second tremor measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale shook a wide area of western Colombia on Wednesday, destroying or damaging 600 buildings and sending people running out into the streets. More than 3,000 were made homeless.

Rescuers in Pereira concentrated on a wrecked block of flats where at least two women were believed to be trapped alive. (Reuters)

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Calling your opponent a dimwit or a twerp in the House of Commons a century ago would barely have raised an eyebrow

A Member's guide to elegant abuse

BETTY BOOTHROYD has been seething this week at the antics of her MPs. She turned a blind eye on Monday when one of them was accused of wielding a pickaxe at a group of motorway protesters. But on Tuesday the Prime Minister called Tony Blair a "dimwit" and by Wednesday the whole House seemed to be accusing each other of being "nitwits" or "bullshiners" and Steven Norris, the Transport Minister, was insulting rail commuters by calling them "dreadful human beings".

The Speaker of the House had had enough. Pulling herself up to her full five feet two inches, steel ringlets bobbing, she declared that MPs' behaviour was spiralling out of control and she would no longer put up with all this name-calling and spiteful invective.

She told an unusually hushed House, "Good temper and moderation are the characteristics of parliamentary language. I do hope that in future interventions all Members will bear that in mind

and we shall make use of the richness of the English language to select elegant phrases that express their meaning without causing offence to others."

Miss Boothroyd is angry that MPs sloppy taunts and uncouth gibes are bringing the House into disrepute.

In fact she is extremely lucky. MPs in the 1990s are a model of decorum compared with many of their predecessors. It is now rare for a minister to make a speech when drunk. But both Pitt the younger and Asquith did so and Pitt, a port drinker, used to go behind the Speaker's chair to vomit before making an important intervention in debate. Liverpool favoured a whiff of ether and Canning a dose of laudanum.

In the last 20 years only Michael Heseltine has been known to resort to a

violent gesture in the House, when he waved the mace in 1976. But between 1750 and early Victorian times challenging someone to a duel provided frequent entertainment. Pitt the younger and Shelbourne fought duels. Mr Major calling Mr Blair a "dimwit" pales in comparison with Palmerston having a bloody fist-fight with another future Prime Minister, Aberdeen.

Miss Boothroyd warns that "good temper and moderation are the characteristics of parliamentary language", but most MPs will tell you that ridicule and disdain make a far better parliamentary answer. If anything Miss Boothroyd should chastise MPs on the



ALICE THOMSON

poor quality of their vitriol.

A century ago the kind of language the Speaker was having to censor were jokes like "half pantaloon and half highwayman", "lackadaisical and whimsical", "noble and learned camels", and suggesting an MP was "returned by the refuse of a large constituency". Recently MPs have resorted to "you little twerps" or "amiable dumbbells" or "hamsters".

The Speaker's rules have always meant using imagination. Accusing someone of being drunk or a liar has always remained an unparliamentary

nonsense. *Nothing Good Will Ever Come Of It*, by Phil Mason, Norwegian and Icelandic abuse is fine but the French *merde* is not allowed. You may call a group of MPs hypocrites and frauds and accuse them of bribery, treachery and hypocrisy. "MPs used to be incredibly inventive; now they just tend to be rude. The insult used to be an art form; now it is more likely to be uttered in anger or frustration. The worst and most tedious language came in the 1980s when MPs were always trying out four-letter words," Mr Mason says.

Miss Boothroyd is far more prudish than many of her predecessors. "Telling porkies, you say. I think we will not have that word: I had to look it up in the dictionary," Mrs Boothroyd rebuked one MP in 1992.

But our Speaker's linguistic test will allow bunk, humbug and fatheads: Tony Banks, known for his colourful language, once got away with calling Terry Dicks, "an inflated pig's bladder on a stick", while the Labour MP Dennis Skinner won with "wally" but lost with "wimp".

You may call Dame Jill Knight a mean and silly woman, and Kenneth Baker a cruel swine, but not "Mr Oil Slick". Nigel Lawson may not be referred to as a "fat boulder".

GREG KNIGHT, Tory MP and author of *Honourable Insults*, blames the lack of quality contumely on television. "MPs realise they are being beamed into the sitting rooms of Britain and tend to dry up on subtle abuse and instead go for the 'dimwit' soundbite which they think the electorate can understand. Disraeli and Gladstone were so bitter they would have made people today choke on their cornflakes."

I believe in God, not in getting on

Julia Llewellyn Smith meets the Archdeacon of York, who believes we are losing our sense of sin

The Archdeacon of York, the Ven George Austin, lives in a plain, chilly semi in a pretty suburb of York. He is a tall, fat man with a bland, boyish face and voice to match, who opens the front door in a cosy green cardie and fading tartan slippers.

You would not think that this man's telephone number was vital to every journalist's contact book; that this fleshy-faced vicar could provoke any more controversy than a local natter over which parishioner's jam he favoured at the bring-and-buy sale. Yet, in the Church of England, the sound of Mr Austin's voice can reduce clergymen to apoplexy, warm the hearts of middle England and delight anybody keen to witness a good old row.

Most of us know Mr Austin from events a year last December when he appeared on Radio 4's *Today* programme to talk about the newly separated Prince and Princess of Wales. The Prince, said Mr Austin, was not fit to govern this country. He had made wedding vows, which he had almost immediately broken, so how could he then go into Westminster Abbey and make coronation vows?

In the ensuing outcry the bishops closed ranks, but the public applauded Mr Austin's outspokenness.

It was by no means, however, the first time that Mr Austin, 63, had come to the bishops' attention. A regular contributor to newspapers and *Today's* "Thought for the Day", Mr Austin had long been notorious for his unerring ability to criticise liberal tendencies in the Church of England, especially with regard to the ordination of women. After one outburst his boss, the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, famously compared him to the Fat Boy in *The Pickwick Papers* who sneaks up on timid women, saying "I want to make your flesh creep."

Now, the latest Austin storm looks set to commence. Next Thursday, amid levels of hyperbole usually reserved for the latest Martin Amis, he publishes a book: *Affairs of State, Leadership, Religion and Society*, where he expands on his earlier comments. Cue for bickering from Mr Austin's enemies, who dismiss him as a publicity-seeking buffoon. But the idea for the book was not Mr Austin's, but that of the publisher, Hodder & Stoughton, who recognised its headline-hogging potential.

"They are going to town on it," admits Mr Austin, resplendent in leather armchair, grasping a coffee mug with sausage fingers. "It's very curious. Publicity is something

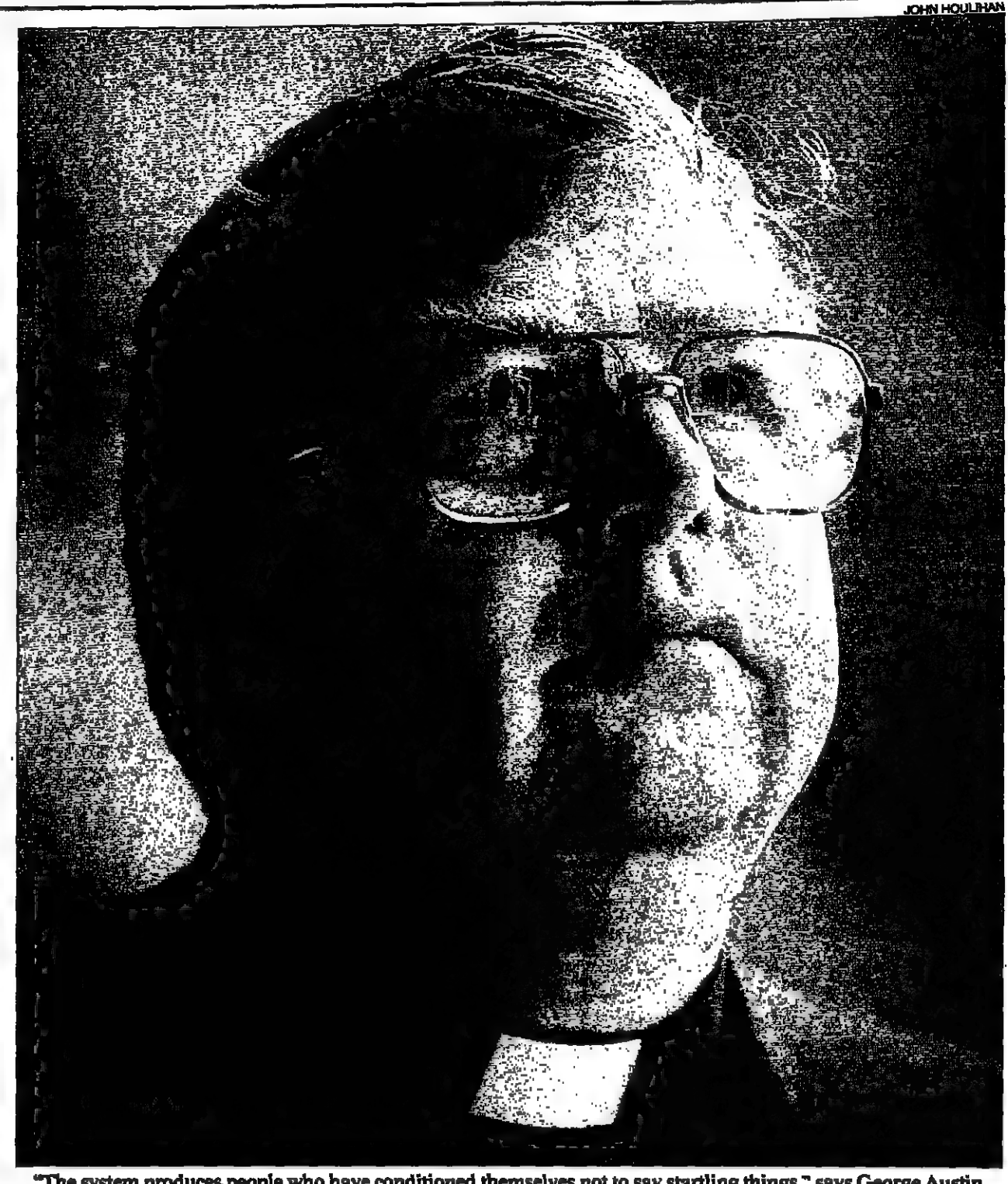
I have never looked for. People have just come along and said 'Will you do this?'"

It is not, however, as if Mr Austin has been chosen at random. The media love him because he is one of the few clergy prepared to question his leaders, thereby snuffing any chance of advancement. "I've never been worried about promotion hopes," he says.

It is a claim he explores in his autobiography, *Journey to Hope*, where he concludes that his tobaccoist father's reluctance to praise led him never to seek glory in human terms. "I would like my epitaph to be 'faithful but not successful'. I don't think we are called to be successful."

Such sentiments are precisely what endear Mr Austin to the Church's grassroots, where many would be delighted to see him a bishop. It won't happen, though. "You have to write the right kind of speeches and promote the right kind of beliefs or you won't get preferment. The system produces nonentities or people who have conditioned themselves not to say startling things."

Startling things, for example, about the morality of public figures, things which Mr Austin has always maintained should rightly be said by his superiors. "I think the



"The system produces people who have conditioned themselves not to say startling things," says George Austin

Church has gone too far in not being prepared to challenge. People are damaging the family and damaging society. All of us need to be more moral. If you can't trust anybody, then society collapses."

And leaders have a duty to inspire this trust and to set an example — a duty, Mr Austin maintains, that the Prince of Wales has not fulfilled.

But why should the Prince's disastrous private life have

any bearing on his public role? "Look," says Mr Austin. "Clearly the marriage is over and there has to be blame on both sides. But I think Charles needs to accept responsibility for his actions. He said he didn't commit adultery until his wife was impossible to live with. But how far was it impossible because of the non-adulterous friendship with Camilla Parker Bowles that carried on before and during

the marriage. I mean, there's friendship and friendship and if I had to put up with a friendship like that I'd want to throw things and get angry."

It seems an unlikely scenario. Mr Austin has been married to Bobbie for 32 years and his conversation is peppered with fond references to her. She was a school teacher in St Albans until six years ago, when Mr Austin was promoted to his current position in the

North. As we speak, she is sitting upstairs doing her husband's secretarial work. They have a journalist son called Jeremy, who sends them to see avant-garde films that they don't always enjoy.

It is an exemplary life, but does that give Mr Austin the right to cast the first stone? It is an argument he counters frequently, devoting a whole chapter of his book to it. "Yes, Jesus did say, 'Let him who is

without sin', but he also said in the woman taken in adultery, 'Go and sin no more.' No one will say that and there's a diminishing sense in society that some things are sinful and wrong."

It is not as if Mr Austin is demanding that the future King of England crawl up the Mall in a horsehair shirt. "He should say, 'All right, I've been foolish, I'm so sorry. I just want to be left alone.' I think people would recognise his honesty and courage, and in those circumstances he probably could marry again, although I don't know about in church."

"It is all a question of accepting responsibility. These days everybody blames everybody else. Charles blames his father for making him get married; ministers

I would like my epitaph to be 'faithful but not successful'

don't go until they are pushed; the goalkeeper starts pointing at the other players as soon as he lets a goal in."

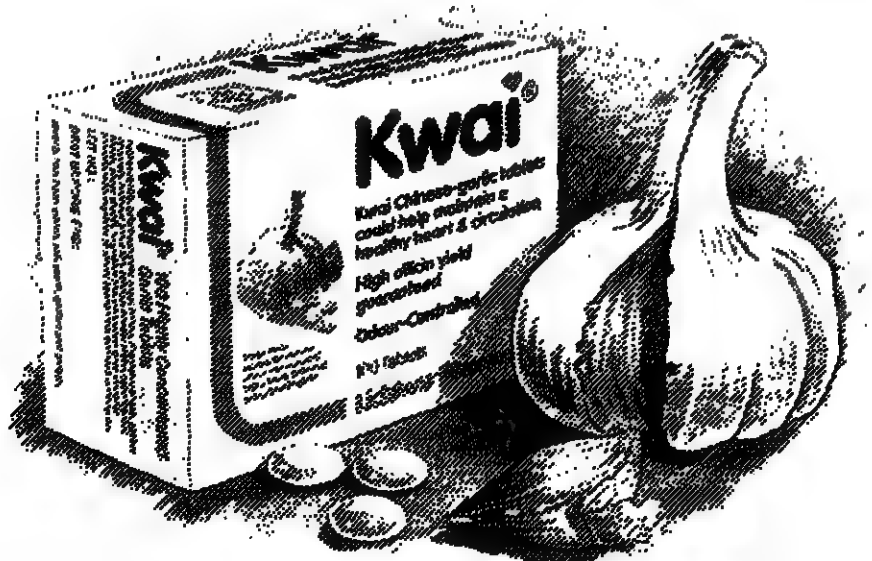
Mr Austin, however, is determined to be counted, whatever the cost. His chubbiness suggests wellbeing and jollity, but Mr Austin is far from at ease with his situation. His hate mail used to leave him feeling sick; now he is nearly immune. "But a retired bishop wrote me a letter after 'Thought for the Day' that was couched in obscene language. That sort of thing still shakes me."

"My son makes rude remarks about being a renegade," and Bobbie says people must say, "Not him again!" Sometimes I say to her: "Oh, I'm sick of it: fighting, fighting, fighting for the things I shouldn't need to do."

And what then should Mr Austin not need to fight for? He sighs ruefully. "I will have been 40 years in holy orders next July and the Church is taking a turn I never could have expected. Now we have priests who say it's possible for them not to believe in God. Actually, I think there are reasons why priests should believe. It ought to be totally unnecessary to say that."

● *Affairs of State*, Hodder & Stoughton, £5.99

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Every teacher's small class struggle

Should we put our children in big classes or small ones? Don't ask Whitehall, Libby Purves suggests

Rural school governors, threatening civil disobedience? What next — rioting JPs? Lord Lieutenants rocking ministerial limousines? A merger between the Rotary Club and Class War? Rumours we live in. But worse than the actual protest is the eerie evidence of discord between the way Whitehall thinks and the way the rest of us do. This is not just a sensible recession-time argument on how best to keep the wolf from the door; we are not even agreed on who the wolf is.

Take one example, which has been bothering me for some time. In every financial plea from schools and local authorities, the fear is expressed that with staff cuts, class sizes will rise. The idea worries parents, governors and teachers, especially at primary level. They automatically think of large classes as a Bad Thing. Parents who buy independent education say that one of their main reasons is the small classes. Low class numbers are therefore not only an electorate's desire, but a market force; and we are told to be responsive to those, are we not?

But when campaigners do raise the spectre of bigger classes, Government does not respond directly, or say "yes,

that mustn't happen". It just urges using up reserves and increasing efficiency; and speaks with horror of "empty desks" — even though to some parents, it would seem rather a good thing if desks 25 to 44 were to remain empty in their own child's classroom. And the fact is that if you ask them directly, as I did for the umpteenth time yesterday, the Department for Education will reveal the interesting fact that, as a matter of fact, they don't mind if classes — even in primary schools — get bigger.

Their spokesman will say "the evidence is that there is no direct correlation between class size and achievement. The important thing is the quality of the teacher." Giving evidence to a Parliamentary Select Committee last summer, Baroness Blatch cited Taiwan to prove that large classes can produce a satisfactory workforce. If you ask an education minister, face to face, to tell you in all sincerity that it does not matter if five-year-olds end up 40 to a teacher, the minister will reply that the case for small classes is not proven. This is the party line. As for the law, the 1944 Education Act set a limit of 40 but was revoked in 1969; so there is nothing to stop your small child being put into a very large class indeed. No



Classroom, 1926: did many heads make better work?

law to stop it: clearly no political will either. If many schools do in fact keep primary school classes to 25 or fewer, it is not because of national policy but because the schools themselves are making immense efforts, off their own bat. I am not sure that enough people know that.

Note that I have kept maternal emotion and experience out of it so far. Frankly, to parents of young children it seems so glaringly obvious that they learn better in small groups that the maternal impulse right now is to scream and bite the carpet. The difference be-

tween the Japanese or Taiwanese model of education and society and our own is also something so obvious that there is no point even discussing it with anyone who hasn't noticed: it would be like showing an elephant to a man who insisted on keeping a stout paper bag over his head.

There are those, gripped by nostalgia for sepia pictures of Victorian board-schools, who sincerely believe that a class of 45 six-year-olds can efficiently be taught the national curriculum by one teacher. But few of those people are teachers; and none of them, I suspect, has much experience of life in the back three rows.

Banish emotion then, banish intuition, ignore even the wishes of parents and the evidence of market forces. Try facts. In The Netherlands, France, America, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand primary classes are between 15 and 20. In Luxembourg, Italy, Denmark, Austria and Sweden they are under 15. Eight European countries limit them by law. Recent research in Tennessee and Texas shows that being taught in small groups from the start confers a benefit which lasts for several years afterwards, even if pupils go on to bigger classes.

The National Commission on Education, briefed by the leading researcher in the field, Professor Peter Mortimore, backs a dramatic lowering of primary class sizes. Sir Christopher Ball, director of the Royal Society of Arts, goes further and argues that we have actually got education upside-down, and that the smaller the child, the smaller its optimum class. The "rule of thumb" he provocatively suggests is that the group number should be double the child's age. This would be rough on all those teachers who enjoy a dignified, unflustered lifestyle with small and motivated six-form groups — poor devils, must they retrain as reception teachers? — but it makes a strong appeal to common sense. Small children, after all, need adults most. Anyone can see that.

Well, almost anyone.

John Hume on a lifetime's journey from the Bogside to the conference table



John Hume: words, delivered with a mesmeric gaze and a prodding finger, have been his only weapon — "You keep on saying the same thing until somebody says it back to you"

The eyes of John Hume, magnified by glasses under beaming black brows, fix the listener with an unrelenting gaze, with the occasional prod of a finger for added emphasis. Face to face with the gently mesmerising manner of the SDLP leader, it is easy to understand how even a man of violence might be persuaded to lay down his arms.

We met in Brussels this week, in one of the big international hotels where the constant background music of the 1950s has formed an incongruous chorus of *Lipstick on Your Collar* and *Whatever Will Be, Will Be* to Hume's softly whispered, almost inaudible words.

Words are the only weapon he has ever used, and he uses the same phrases again and again. "I learnt that when I was a teacher. You keep on saying the same thing over and over until somebody says it back to you."

The one word he keeps repeating is agreement. "Agreement threatens nobody," he says, prodding. "What is better, conflict or dialogue? Dialogue is the true weapon of peace. Never in my life have I fallen out with anyone so far that I couldn't still talk to them." He is having lunch with Ian Paisley

An eye for an eye leaves us all blind

next Tuesday in Strasbourg. "Peace is more important than politics," he says.

Since his talks with Gerry Adams, which had been going on since 1988, first became public, Hume has shown great courage, reviled even within his own party. The stresses and tension made him ill last year. He never stops travelling, working, worrying and smoking. "I was attacked on all sides for talking to Gerry Adams. But had we not talked, there would be no Downing Street Declaration and no peace. Five British governments have not stopped the killing on our streets. Twenty thousand soldiers have not stopped the killing. For the most honourable reasons, I talked secretly with the IRA when there was no peace. I talk openly to Sinn Féin now there is peace. And my challenge to my opponents is (here

his whisper becomes almost menacingly fierce): give me your alternative!"

He had been disturbed by *The Times*'s printing of the leaked Anglo-Irish document last week, and even more distressed by the Unionists' reaction, 150 days into the ceasefire. "It was a distraction, a party-political game being played out by those who want to be able to say 'I told you so', obscuring the fact that for the first time ever, all energies are directed towards agreement. I don't want it to be a victory for one side or the other. I want agreement to emerge."

For the first time in our history, both governments and all parties have agreed to come to the table, committed to an agreement. Let us stay on that road. Any new agreement reached between North and South would be subject to a referendum on one day, requiring a 'Yes' from each side. If either side says 'No', then it's not on. The people of Ireland as a whole will have spoken. And if they speak in agreement, nobody will be able to question it, and we will have the basis for order and stability."

His faith in the possibility of agreement seems touching, and he has an example of it in his own home city of Derry, where the Troubles started 25 years ago when Londonderry was run by the Unionist minority, and Catholics suffered under the gerrymandering voting system. The city is run today by the SDLP. "But," Hume says, "we put into practice our philosophy of respect for diversity. The mayor changes every year; this year it's a Unionist. Our common ground is our city. We have a mutual respect for difference, which are no more than an accident of birth."

Last week the itinerant peace-monger was in Derry on Monday, London on Tuesday, Brussels on Wednesday, Dublin on Thursday, and Davos (at the World Economic Conference) on Friday, where he spoke on peace and reconciliation, with Shimon Peres and the Foreign Ministers of Egypt and South Africa. "If my mother came out of her grave she would never believe it," he says, "she never left Derry in

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



her whole life." At Davos he was inundated with requests to speak — in South Africa, Bosnia, Pakistan, and all over the United States, where universities garland him with doctorates.

He might have had a quiet, obscure life as a Catholic priest. He was the eldest of seven; the only one who passed the 11-plus and got educated — a scholarship boy at St Columba's, followed by St Patrick's seminary at Maynooth. Great was his parents' pride; and hard was the decision to give up the priesthood.

"I became what was known then as a 'spoiled priest'." Instead he read for a degree in history and French, and taught at a Catholic school. But he also led a self-help movement in Derry, founding a credit union which still flourishes there; and in 1952 he started Atlantic Harvest, a smoked salmon business, when he saw that fresh salmon from the Foyle estuary were being sent elsewhere to be smoked. This early example of a cross-border agreement between the Unionist Government of Northern Ireland and the Irish Government still produces "the best smoked salmon in Europe", although he sold his half-share in it the day he was first elected (as an Independent, in 1969) on the principle that a politician should not be a businessman. He also wanted to bottle the local spring water, but at the time everyone thought him mad, as water came out of taps. "If I'd given my life to business and industry," he says, "I'd be lot better off than I am today."

His father, unemployed since the war, spent his evenings writing beautiful cursive letters on behalf of those who could not write. His mother, who could write no more than her name, spent her evenings making collars. Young John did his homework at the same wooden table. When there was a flag-waving nationalist meeting in the street, Hume's father told him: "Don't get involved in that stuff, son. You can't eat a flag." Hume learnt early to reject the idea that patriotism meant dying for Ireland, which was very closely allied to killing for Ireland.

"I stood up against violence throughout my life. I opposed the IRA for 20 years in my own streets in the middle of Bogside. The SDLP and Sinn Féin have fought the bitterest elections," Hume's own five children have grown up with the Troubles, and seen the family home in the Bogside attacked nine times; five masked men fire-bombed it one night. "When Hume's wife, Pat, and one daughter were inside (Pat, or 'the wee wife' as he refers to her, runs his office in Derry, where 300 applicants arrive each week. "I couldn't do anything without her. We are a team. I am a packet, and she delivers me.") Their cars were blown up, the house was daubed and picketed by IRA supporters.

But Hume's favourite refrain is Martin Luther King's "the doctrine of an eye for an eye leaves everybody blind". On Tuesday he met John Major at the House of Commons, and thanked him for his television speech. "John Major gave me total commitment from day one," he says, "and the British Prime Minister who achieves peace will go down in history, where Gladstone failed, Lloyd George failed, Churchill failed."

"Given the bitterness and prejudice of our history, it will not be easy. But let's spill sweat over it, not blood." He has said that line about spilling sweat not blood many times. "The Unionists have always accused me of wanting to impose a united Ireland. They do not listen to a word I say. For 25 years I have been saying we want an agreed future for Ireland. Whatever

form that agreement takes, once it becomes an agreement the quarrel is over, and the healing will take place. The real border of Ireland is not a line on a map, it is a border in the hearts and minds of people, two opposing mind-sets entrenched in the harsh and terrible past, which have got to change."

He recognises and approves of the Unionist's objectives: to protect their heritage and their identity. "But they have a larger mentality. They think the only way they can protect the North is by holding all the power in their own hands — which is what led to the one-party state and 60 years of discrimination. What we need in Northern Ireland is a Unionist de Klerk. He recognised that he had to reach agreement with the people with whom he shared a piece of earth, but respecting the rights of his own people too."

"My challenge to the Unionists is simple. We cannot live without you. Come to the table and make an agreement that will protect your heritage for ever. On the other side of the divide is the territorial mindset: 'This is our land, and you are a minority.' To them I say, it is people who have rights, not territory."

He has been a member of the European Parliament since 1979 and to him, Europe represents the most inspiring example of how former enemies can reach agreement in a way unimaginable 50 years ago. "What will emerge, a couple of generations after the healing process takes place, is a new Ireland, whose model will be very different from the past."

"My dream is that the next century will be the first in Ireland's history with no bloodshed on the streets — and no young people emigrating. [He has a brother in Australia, a son in Boston.] Peace in the streets has already created an enormous change of mood among people. Nobody will dare go back to the trenches of the last 25 years." What about the Semtex bomb defused at Newry? "Well, the IRA have denied it, and having been the IRA's strongest opponent, I do know that they tell the truth. Even when they committed the worst atrocities, they always admitted them."

And what about the weapons? "Every party in Ireland was founded on the gun. The guns disappear. The only question is, have you stopped using the guns?" The day agreement is reached, he will regard his task as done. "I have given my life to what I believe in, and I don't care what anybody says, it is peace. I know. I know. I've grown up with it. It's peace."

Executive blot on our landscape

Why do we allow suburbia to spread into England's villages?

Watching the ugly lorries arrive and the tawdry mock-heraldic banners of the brutal builders rise alongside their sinister little Portakabin, I felt like one of the rabbits in *Waterbury Down* staring at the engines of destruction. The notices of impending doom were quickly erected, harbingers of an environmental Armageddon. "Coming soon," they proclaimed, like advertisements for next week's movie at some small-town cinema, "an exclusive development of four-bedroom luxury executive homes." I had read the evil runes correctly: Pertridge Chase was upon us.

Amid the bizarre indicators used by pundits to calculate trends in the British economy, one of the most perverse is the practice of seeing a rising number of "housing starts" as positive. In fact, the building industry is the bane of our national life, responsible for more and more lower-middle-class blots on the English countryside.

Admittedly, the new houses of the past decade have been better built and more congruous with their surroundings than much of the functional and ugly constructions of the 1960s and 1970s. But at their best, they remain pastiche, and ignore the real question, which is: were they necessary at all, except to make money for their builders?

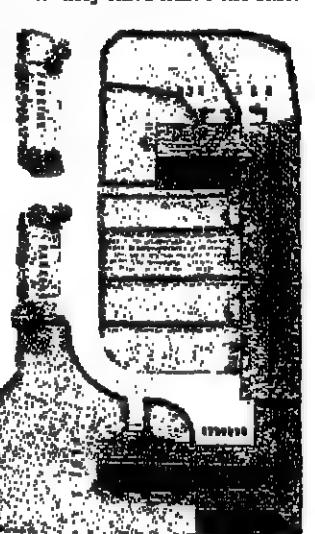
In a country with a stable population and a demographic dip in the offing, wholesale construction of new housing in the way it is now going on is redundant. Yes, there is a need for redeveloping — ripping down and starting again — on the tower-block vertical slums that disfigure our big cities. Some of this is happening. A lot of cheap, postwar council housing could also be replaced. And most importantly of all: our rich treasury of existing domestic architecture, from 17th-century country-cottages via the immensely user-friendly, middle-class Victorian terraces to the 1930s suburbs, is in need of repair and restoration.

But most of this is left to the DIY business. For the big builders, the economic — ie money-making solution — is to build from scratch on the diminishing greenfield sites, preferably around picturesque villages which are thus in danger of mutating from balanced communities into small towns.

The traditional villain in this scenario was the "weekender", the relatively well-off city-dweller who could afford a second home, who was depicted as a contrast to a homogenous group of "locals". I admit an interest — I am a second-homeowner — but in reality, the traditional view is a myth. The real outsiders are the inhabitants of the "executive homes", mostly recent arrivals from suburbia who still commute up to 40 miles a

day to their workplaces, shop up to ten miles away at the nearest out-of-town supermarket complex and whose prime contribution to rural life is the exhaust fumes from their BMWs that clog narrow country lanes. By contrast, second homeowners have usually made a long-term commitment to their retreat, seeing it as a possible retirement home rather than a temporary step on the housing-market ladder. They shop in the village shop, use the village pubs and care about the quality of local life; after all, there is no point in escaping from like to like.

The counter-argument uses words such as "dynamic" and "progress" and complains about "fuddy-duddies" and "living in the past". But it is those who use it who are living in the past. The age of urbanisation in Britain is over, as the builders' enthusiasm for luring people from the towns into the villages demonstrates. What they are doing, of course, is eroding their main selling point, but by then they have made the sale.



"Executive" housing, a village-lover's horror

What most villages really need is some relatively inexpensive housing to give young people growing up in the community the chance to remain there. What they get instead are class-ghettos of suburbanites whose own children will leave the moment they are old enough, if they have not already moved "one rung up the ladder" to blight some other beauty spot with a cancerous "development" at its edge.

There is no obvious cure. I fear. Builders will be builders, and the lure of lucre usually wins out over the pedantries of planning permission. In the popular mind, the idea that "more" means "better" and that despoliation is a form of progress are among the most evil legacies of the 20th century. Only when we have erected street lights and laid suburban crescents, closes and gardens all over what remains of England will we realise that the great British dream has become a waking nightmare.

PETER MILLAR



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

SUMMER OPENING OF THE STATE ROOMS
1995

The State Rooms at Buckingham Palace will be open to visitors from Monday 7th August to Thursday 28th September.

This year, individuals will be able to purchase a maximum of four tickets in advance. Tickets will also be available from the Ticket Office each day during the opening period.

To request the necessary application form, please write your name and address on a postcard or sealed envelope and send to:

The Visitor Office (11)
PO Box 6789
Buckingham Palace
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APPLICATIONS CLOSE MONDAY 13TH MARCH

TRAVEL section

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YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PUT IT DOWN

The section for travellers every Thursday in
THE TIMES

Monetary union holds scant benefit

Mr Clarke skirted the economic issues, says Anatole Kaletsky

It might have scored a respectable beta-minus for political shrewdness, but in an A-level paper on economics, the Chancellor's speech on European monetary union yesterday would have been lucky to win a bare pass mark. The problem for Kenneth Clarke was that stitching together the tattered fabric of party unity among his Cabinet colleagues has nothing whatsoever to do with economics, and a proper exposition of the rather subtle economic arguments on monetary union, which he kept skirting, would strike the public as even more mind-numbing than the Tories' internal battle over Europe. But here goes.

At least four questions are worth discussing. First, does monetary union imply political union? No. As Mr Clarke said yesterday, there have been plenty of states throughout history which have participated in monetary unions and remained separate nations. However, monetary union does imply the loss of one of the main prerogatives of a sovereign state — the power to print money — and this means far more than the loss of control over two instruments of economic policy, namely the level of interest rates and the exchange rate. A state which cannot print money thereby also loses the power to borrow freely in the financial markets, since money-creation is a Government's ultimate guarantee that it can always repay its debts, albeit in debased money if necessary. And curtailing the state's power to borrow also limits its ability to spend, tax and ultimately to carry out such other basic functions as waging war. All these curtailments of state power might be desirable, but it is dishonest to pretend they would not occur.

This leads to the second question: would the transfer of key elements of state sovereignty to Europe be desirable? On this essentially political question, one economic observation is worth making. European institutions have recently been unimpressive in overseeing monetary and exchange-rate policies, and have made an even bigger hash of running public spending programmes. Britain, on the other hand, has done quite well, ever since it left the ERM. Thus the idea that a substantial economic power like Britain cannot "go it alone" in monetary policy and must transfer economic sovereignty to Europe is simply nonsense.

The third question is whether monetary union would be economically feasible or whether it would "break up" the European Community", as John Major recently warned. On this point, Mr Major and other Eurosceptics are plainly wrong. A monetary union including Germany, France, Austria, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Denmark and Ireland would be economically quite possible by the main target date in the Maastricht treaty, which is December 1999, not 1997. These countries are all likely by then to satisfy the treaty's convergence criteria. They might, of course, choose to back out of their treaty obligations. But if they did go ahead, they would be unlikely to suffer such serious economic hardship as to "tear Europe apart".

For some other European countries, joining a monetary union in 1999 might indeed be dangerous. Italy and Sweden, both of which have public debts well above 100 per cent of gross domestic product, would lose their ability to guarantee the repayment of their own debts, if necessary by debasing the lira and krona. But this is precisely why the convergence criteria were designed to keep such countries out. Then there are the stragglers: Spain, Portugal and Greece. For them, early membership could be disastrous because it would lock in very high levels of unemployment and backward industrial structures.

Fortunately, Britain fits into neither of these problematic groups. However, from the mere fact that monetary union would be possible for a country like Britain, it is a huge leap of logic to claim that we (or for that matter France or Germany) should join.

This leads to the fourth and most important question: apart from the political doubts about European integration already mentioned, would the economic benefits outweigh the economic costs? Unfortunately, this crucial issue cannot be settled by ideology or flagwaving, but has to be addressed through boring economic theory. This theory, called Optimal Currency Areas, suggests that a single currency is only likely to be beneficial in a group of countries with reasonably uniform industrial structures and great mobility of labour. If the area is not uniform, different parts of it will respond differently to unpredictable shocks, such as oil crises or monetary miscalculations. Without an exchange rate to act as a shock-absorber, these upheavals will produce long periods of economic dislocation. And if labour is not mobile, the problems will be even worse, since large-scale migration (as in America) is one of the main ways for regions to cope with localised shocks.

But the theory has an even more important lesson. The most important requirement in creating a monetary union is that all the economies should be in balance to start with. This means not only that their trade should be balanced, but that there should be roughly equal levels of unemployment. A country with very high unemployment, like, for example, France at present, almost certainly has an overvalued currency. To lock such a currency into a monetary union is not impossible, but it guarantees huge economic costs for years if not decades ahead.

In sum, therefore, it would be quite possible for Europe to create a monetary union and for Britain to join. But just because something is possible, does not mean it makes sense.

That it is possible doesn't mean it makes sense

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BRITON IN POLICY VACUUM

Judges found wanting

The judiciary badly needs the guidance of advisers from the real world

The judges! The judges! I'm back with the judges! I knew something was missing in my life, and when I looked at my last year's diary all was clear. I hadn't had a go at them since last October! Ooh, the torment! Ah, the restraint! Eee, the waste of time!

Before I take up the matter in hand, I must touch upon a little-noted but very significant aspect of our judiciary and the way the members go about their labours. It is the forbearance that they show in the way they are treated by ruffians like me. True, the Old Guard has gone, so battered by getting things wrong and having to put them right 15 years later, that I could have piled the bench with ordure and got away with it, and it was only my notorious lack of trickery that prevented me from actually carrying out the threat. But by then, though, the new or newish bench had got the hang of the hitherto lost trick of igniting the fire in the belly, and only the lower order of circuit judges was still up to the old tricks, though I, suspicious to the end, tried my old test of threatening to spit in the judge's eye to see how he takes it. He took it well.

That is a very good thing, not only for the spitters, but also for the judges, for it can only mean that the judges, these days, are more sensible than their predecessors, and one of these days we shall wake up without the ghastly whine they emit when they are accused of not understanding ordinary people and their problems. (If I ever again hear from a judge that he really is an ordinary person just like us, and to prove it says that he always takes the washing to the laundry, remembers to stop the papers when he and his wife go on holiday, and brings the car in at night, I shall spit in his eye.)

But we still have a long way to go, as witness Judge Wilson, who, on circuit, learned that — well, hear me.

Offered accommodation in the local B&B, he burst with rage. The advertising of judgeships brought him forty fits, saying that it was "a cynical exercise". As for the letter that all judges received, laying out what judicial kind of misbehaviour would lead to disciplinary proceedings, he said Judge Wilson: "I was very offended to receive it, and so was everyone else I have spoken to." Oh, my dear good justice: if you get offended to bursting by reading a letter that you claim was unnecessary, what would you think if a party of softies knocked you down, debagged you, and painted your bottom red, white and blue?

With which, I introduce you to Judge Richard Haworth. (From the only photograph I have seen, he has curiously small eyes, and my mum always said I should avoid men with little eyes. Mind you, my mum was very superstitious.)

The story in brief is that a Mr Bill Wicks had been attacked and injured: the man accused of the crime was prosecuted, and Mr and Mrs Wicks were called to give evidence. Before they were to appear, however, they had been threatened, and the threats took the form of a warning.

Mr and Mrs Wicks were afraid: after all, Mr Wicks had been attacked. In fear, the couple refused to give evidence. And the law, in the hands of Judge Haworth, came down on them with elephantine force. Well, you may say, fear or no fear, the law must be obeyed. Yes, but that leaves out Judge Haworth. From beginning to end of the Wickses' ordeal, he appears to have taken virtually no notice of anything said for the besieged couple. Have a taste. This is Mrs Wicks speaking:

Our barrister, Barbara Strachan, started to speak. But Judge Haworth was not interested in anything she was saying. Miss Strachan mentioned the letter I had written. The judge waved it in his hand and was clearly not impressed. Our barrister tried to explain it was Bill who was the victim in all this, but he was not having any of it, she was talking to thin air. From that moment we knew were going to prison. It was then the judge declared: "Only a custodial sentence could be justified."

Off to prison they went, quite literally without anything that could be called a defence, and anything said on their side ignored or brushed aside, thanks to Judge Haworth. Now, I have frequently criticised the present Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, but the appalling behaviour of Judge Haworth galvanised the Lord Chief into a statement that even I could not fault. Here it is:

Lord Chief Justice Taylor ruled "that the contempt was not satisfactorily or properly proved". He said that in future people like the Wickses should be given a full opportunity to explain themselves. He criticised the fact that neither the couple nor the police officer involved in the case were asked to speak during the hearing... and expressed astonishment that the Crown Prosecution Service was not even represented. "This must not happen again," he said.

Indeed it must not happen again. But how can we guard ourselves against Judge Haworth and his like? The Wickses have an answer. Mrs Wicks said of him: "To me he was so pompous, with no idea of what goes on in the real world."

And plainly he hasn't. The last time such a scandal arose, I offered a remedy, a serious one. Forget the majesty of justice outside the great cities and outside the great crimes and outside the great wigs: think instead of the hundreds of minor transgressions that are dealt with every week, with no one but perhaps a barrister plus two lay justices, in the rural world. I do not think such justice is tainted, corrupt or beyond the intelligence of ordinary people. Well, invert the pattern. All the high courts could and should have a lay adviser — not just an expert on technical matters. He or she would not argue the fine points of the law, but would point out the fatuities, pomposities and absurdities that could be avoided by the Wickses' few sagacious words, in which they summed up their ordeal: "... with no idea of what goes on in the real world."

And has Judge David MacLaren Webster any idea what goes on in the real world? He will say (possibly spluttered) that of course he knows what goes on in the real world: why, he might say he bought a lottery ticket last week, and perhaps went to the cinema the week before that, and it is not impossible that he reads thrillers when he is not busy. Never was there a judge so *au courant* as Judge MacLaren Webster.

Bernard Levin

Philip Howard



Thank you, Mr Norris — would you kindly change trains?

We dreadful human beings on the Circle Line were behaving with our Blitz stoicism yesterday. Other "dreadful human beings" were sitting not alongside, but below us, their papers ticking our midriffs while we tried not to tread on their feet. Seats are snatched at once, irrespective of the age, sex, children or other disabilities of the competition. But by the time the train arrives at Notting Hill Gate, all the seats have long gone, and the prudent man tries to insinuate himself apologetically towards some vertical surface to prop his back against.

We show patience in conditions that would shock the demonstrators against calf-trucks. When a cowboy driver jerks us off our feet around a corner, we catch each other and make eye contact and even smile — for once wryly is the exact rather than the lazy adverb. Some of the intolerant make "tssking" noises to match the electronic "tssks" coming from the headphones of commuting cassette players, and parties of French schoolchildren who choose to travel during the rush hour attract looks that students of English body language could translate as resentful. The only time we are ever roused to vocal complaint is after being stuck in a tunnel with unintelligible explanations, or when a Circle Line is changed to a Metropolitan train without any distinguishable warning, and we find ourselves outside the inner zone without a ticket.

We were relieved not to have the Transport Minister, former chairman of a dealership in expensive motor cars, in our carriage, because there was no room for him. If he had arrived, we would have squeezed the congested mass of dreadful humanity even tighter, in a grinding way, to let him in, out of feeling for a fellow victim. One touch of the Circle Line makes even junior ministers kin. But we took it that Steve Norris was being ironic about our dreadful behaviour, clothes, smells, vulgarity, eating habits and contiguity in trains. Yesterday he said that he was referring to himself as the man on the Circle Line and a dreadful human being.

Loss of any personal space is the main horror of commuting, and we endure this by building our invisible screens against the crowd with crosswords or books or earphones or by staring at the advertisements. I prefer it to being stuck in a rush-hour traffic jam. Commuters by public transport are cattle. Commuters by car are road-hogs.

Mr Norris sounded like patronising as the man in the car to the man on public transport — the Attila-the-Hun arrogance of the horseman to the poor resentful infantry. Human beings are lovely, or at least they are all that we have, and our relatives and friends. En rush-hour mass, they may be described as dreadful — but not by a politician seeking re-election.

Mr Norris's phrase "dreadful human beings" was superior car salesman's language, and probably irony, a device that provokes outrage in soundbites. John Major's description of Tony Blair as a "dimwit" was obnoxious slang. The word is an American colloquialism that came over to the playgrounds of London with the GIs. It sounds snooty and aggressive, and as old as Just William's teacher.

Coarser insults are in vogue today. The same insinuation can be made within the rules of parliamentary language by wit rather than direct abuse. What he lacks in intelligence, he makes up for in stupidity. Microbiologists are trying to build the ultimate idiot, and they are using the honourable gentleman as their gene bank. As when Francis Bacon said that a tall French ambassador was like a five-storey house: "the upper rooms are the most poorly furnished". Or when Sheridan's son Tom announced that when he became an MP he would proclaim his independence of party by writing "To Ler" on his forehead. Sheridan said, "And, under that, Tom, write 'unfurnished'." Or when Byron wrote that the Cardinal at Ravenna was at his wit's end: "It is true that he had not far to go." Wit runs deeper than abuse. And political gaffes at least keep us awake when they cause outrage.

Splash 'n' grab

POLICE arrested two Cambridge University students who ran wild at the weekend after an evening with a girls' drinking society. One of the two medical students from St John's College dived into the flooded River Cam to evade college porters and for three hours was believed to have drowned.

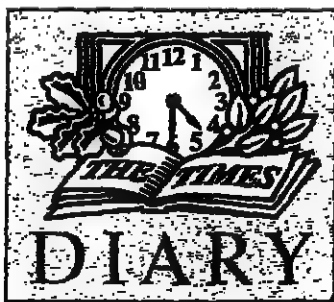
The episode began after Luke Gompels and Adam Green left the inebriated company of the Newham Nuns on borrowed bicycles. They raced around St John's before being spotted by college porters. Green made a quick escape but Gompels was pursued through the library and the Master's garden, where he reached a wall overlooking the river.

Despite repeated appeals, he threw himself into the swirling Cam below. The porters called the emergency services. A three-hour tri-service search followed, involving heat-seeking equipment, searchlights and an inflatable boat. Gompels re-emerged at the college gate three hours later. Along with Green, he was arrested, cautioned by the police and released. Both students have been banned from the college bar for the term and fined £250.

"The events have generated a great sense of ill-feeling. The porter was concerned that he had met his death," says Ray Jobling, Senior Tutor at St John's. Gompels refused to comment on the incident other than to confirm that he was in serious trouble.

Guests are to be permitted to bare all at The Ritz. At supper or in the bar, however, diners must be partially clad at least. The Ritz in question claims to be Britain's

HE'S WHAT WE CALL A SINGLE DECKER... NOTHING UPSTAIRS



most opulent naturist health and fitness club. It opens later this month in leafy Surbiton. But after learning of it, the rather better-known Ritz hotel in Piccadilly has decided to investigate the new establishment. "We're looking into this, but I can't say any more," said a spokeswoman.

God save us

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM has been blaring interminably from the offices of BBC Radio 2 for the last few weeks. The anthem celebrates its 250th anniversary this year, and Radio 2 is putting on a birthday programme.

"The people in my office are sick of the sound of it because I have had to listen to 40 or 50 different versions," says Bridget Apps, the programme's producer. "We go

from a version by the Grenadier Guards to a really awful one by Michael Fagin, the man who broke into the Queen's bedroom."

A German military band gave the longest known rendering on the platform of Rathenau railway station, she adds. King Edward VII was struggling to fit into an undersized German field-marshal's uniform. The band played the anthem 17 times before he was ready.

London College of Law students were being examined on police powers yesterday afternoon when there was a bomb scare. Police swamped the building and turfed them outside — offering the students a tip or two in passing.

Essex epic

FED UP with jokes about stilettoes and secondhand cars, Essex Man is fighting back. A lifelong inhabitant of the ridiculed region is re-mortgaging his house to champion the county.

At the age of 62, Roy Dyer, of the Brentwood Information Centre, has hired a film crew to make a 40-minute documentary, *Essex: The County of Contrasts*, setting the £50,000 cost against his home. Footage of idyllic, sleepy villages will be shown against views of the M25 and shopping centres.



The Menuhins: harmonising their autobiographies

"These jokes about Essex are not funny but rather silly," he says. "I'm an Essex man and very proud of it. I don't wear jewellery and shell-suits, but why shouldn't people, anyway?"

In tune

TALK IN London's Chester Square is of the industrious behaviour of Lord Menuhin and his wife Diana. They are updating their autobiographies after selling a double book deal to the publisher Sinclair-Stevenson for about £60,000.

The books will be launched to coincide with the ecologically minded peer's 80th birthday in April 1996. And both volumes will doubtless find their way across the square, to the Menuhins' famous neighbours, Sir Denis and Lady Thatcher.

P.H.S



THE NEW PULL AND PUSH

Clarke tries to steer European policy his way

Each time that John Major sets out a sensible position on Europe, a colleague tries to tweak it in a different direction. Last night it was the turn of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to ride the push-me-pull-you of Tory politics. With more than his customary tact, Mr Clarke paid at least some minimum obeisance to the arguments of the sceptics. But he left no doubt that he wanted Britain at the heart of Europe, if need be as a member of a single currency.

It is encouraging to see the Chancellor's enthusiasm for monetary union dimmed even a little by the practicalities involved. If Mr Clarke has evolved from a single-currency-at-all-costs man to one who understands the possible disaster that could ensue, that is to be welcomed. Although his heavily trumpeted "new" convergence criteria turned out to be little more than a reiteration of the Maastricht treaty, Mr Clarke was wise to express worry about the possible costs in social unrest and hard cash of countries joining a single currency while their structural unemployment is high and their labour markets inflexible.

Much of the time, however, the Chancellor raised Aunt Sallys only to knock them down. If the British Government had ever been so foolish as to opt out of the politics of trade policy in Europe, he says, it would never have secured the Gatt round. Yet who has ever suggested that Britain should not have taken its seat at that table? The enemies that Mr Clarke was addressing last night seemed to be those who want Britain to pull out of the EU altogether. Their arguments are the easiest to defeat, but victory is hollow. The people Mr Clarke should be seeking to persuade are not the out-and-out sceptics, but those nearer the centre who are yet to be convinced that any further integration within the EU is in Britain's interests.

Mr Clarke was at his most emphatic in

denying that economic and monetary union would lead inexorably to political union. He used as his examples the cases of Austria and Holland, whose currencies have been pegged to the German mark for years. But he forgets that they could choose at any time to set their currencies free: joining a single currency, by contrast, would be an irreversible step. And, although it is true that they are still sovereign states, they have lost all control over their own interest rates and exchange rates, which are now set by the Bundesbank according to German, not Austrian or Dutch, priorities. That lack of accountability would be quite unacceptable to this country — or indeed to France. Political structures would have to be set up to make the decisions of a European central bank accountable to its member states.

Mr Clarke says that this pooling of sovereignty would not "herald the end of the nation state". But it would take out of the hands of individual governments some of the most important decisions that their citizens entrust them to make. Coming from a Chancellor of the Exchequer, this is blithe insouciance; it seems as if Mr Clarke is quite happy to write himself out of a job. For he is adamant that considerations of sovereignty should have no part to play in assessing whether Britain should join a single currency. The only measurements of national self-interest, he claims, should be "jobs, capital investment and our ability to sell our goods and services in world markets".

This now marks the divide within the centre of the Tory party: between those who measure Britain's interests only in the crudest economic terms and those who put varying values on independence, sovereignty, democracy and accountability. It may not be sensible to argue that all the latter must be defended — whatever the cost may be. But it still sounds extraordinary for a Conservative to declare that they no longer have value at all.

THREE POLES

The question of competence facing Lech Walesa

After a war of nerves which has already lasted for months and is not yet over, Lech Walesa appears to have manoeuvred yet another Polish Prime Minister out of office. He has done Poland's political stability, in the interest of which he claims to be acting, a disservice. Mr Walesa, who so eloquently symbolised resistance to the abuse of power during the 1980s, increasingly appears to put his own pursuit of continued power ahead of the health of Polish democracy.

The departure of Waldemar Pawlak, the latest victim of the President's game of divide and rule, would in itself be no loss to Poland. All the Peasant Party leader's instincts run counter to Poland's drive to modernise. He has been insufficiently tough on inflation and has held up further privatisation, which he views with veiled hostility. He is suspicious of the European Union, which Poland formally applied to join last year. And although his party is the junior member of the governing coalition, he has used his position to cushion the Polish farm lobby, the basis of his electoral support.

Mr Walesa's attacks on Mr Pawlak would, however, have more credibility if he had not been equally ready to sabotage earlier governments which were both anti-Communist and solidly reformist. He exploited popular misgivings about the hardships inherent in the early stages of Poland's highly successful "shock therapy" to bring down the Governments first of Tadeusz Mazowiecki, then of the lawyer from his own Solidarity party, Jan Olszewski and, in 1993, of Hanna Suchocka. That performance to Poland's left-wing gallery helped, in 1993, to usher in the current Government, whose roots lie in the Communist past.

The tactics Mr Walesa has used to force Mr Pawlak from office, including holding up key ministerial appointments and then resorting to a threat to dissolve the Sejm,

abuse the spirit if not the letter of his powers. With his eye on next November's presidential elections, he may hope to decrease his growing isolation, both within parliament and in the country at large, by projecting himself back onto centre-stage. But if his underlying strategy was to manoeuvre his political rival Aleksander Kwasniewski, the former Communist who leads the Left Democratic Alliance, into the premiership and thus out of the presidential race, he has so far failed. Instead he seems likely to be faced with Jozef Oleksy, another Communist turned pro-market reformer, the man who was charged, in Poland's last Communist Government in the late 1980s, with negotiating with Solidarity.

Voltaire is said to have observed: "One Pole, a charmer; two Poles, a farce; three Poles, the Polish Question." The charming Mr Walesa seems bent on proving that this unkind aphorism still applies to modern Poland. To remark, as he did last month, that the parliament elected in 1993 is "bad for democracy because it has too great a majority" is to play with tinder.

If Mr Oleksy manages to form a government — which is by no means certain — it is likely to be more effective, and more resistant to presidential sabotage, than Mr Pawlak's. The suspicion grows that this would not suit Mr Walesa. But he should give it space to get on with government. As last month's survey of Poland by the OECD found, the country has made such huge strides to becoming a modern market economy that it is already a thoroughly plausible candidate for the EU membership its reformers crave. But political maturity is also important. If Mr Walesa cannot or will not learn the rules of the democratic game, he will deserve the defeat in the presidential elections which, to judge by his current standing in opinion polls, seems inevitable.

MIND THE GAP

He who is tired of London Transport is tired of life

Unreal City,
Under the brown fog of a winter dawn,
A crowd flowed over London Bridge, so many,
I had not thought death had undone so many.

T. S. Eliot did not write these words in *The Waste Land* for Steven Norris. But the poet's reference to Inferno has elicited from the Under Secretary of State for Transport an echo that is as far from Dante as Rickmansworth is from Ravenna. Sounding an energetic preference for travel by private vehicle, Mr Norris — the minister in charge of London Transport — described users of the Tube as "dreadful human beings". Let us call them DHBs for short.

That our metropolitan users of public transport have daily to endure dreadful conditions — which, mercifully, do not seem to include the company of junior ministers — does not of course make DHBs of them all. On the contrary, the average commuter is a noble soul with a camel's store of patience and philosophy. A man's destination is not, after all, his destiny.

London's Underground, readers will agree, can be a dispiriting place. The trains are slovenly, and always seem to run at angles to their timetables; their drivers are crestfallen; station announcers all speak

with their mouths full of soup. And little rats compete between the tracks with bigger rats — the ones at Embankment are the fattest — for shards of chewing gum and ageing burger scraps. (A return of the dustbins is surely overdue, as the Irish peace dividend for the Tube.)

Above the tracks, in carriages "tagged" by artistically-challenged delinquents, our minister's DHBs vie for space in a travelling bundle of briefcases, skirts and rumpled copies of *The Times*. The Underground has none of the panache of the Paris equivalent, portrayed so deftly in *Subway* by Luc Besson. One cannot picture Isabelle Adjani in a film about the Tube, or even a Calvados-drenched Richard Bohringer. Come to think of it, if there is a gap in the great British cinematic oeuvre, it is the Tube movie.

Yet it is not all "carry on, Norris" down there. The London Underground has its own rare moments of charm. Fragments of a conversation overheard, a glimpse of graceful hands, the cut-price lilt of a young busker's guitar. And occasionally, above the drooping heads of other DHBs, one sights a line of poetry.

Highbury bore me. Richmond and Kew Undid me ...

My feet are at Moorgate, and my heart Under my feet.

Unease over jobs on quangos

From Mr Geoffrey H. Lloyd

Sir, Your extensive coverage of the quango issue today correctly reflects the widespread unease about how people are appointed, despite Government assurances. The suspicions are fuelled by the Government's complacency, as indicated by David Hunt's belated decision to open up (a bit).

There is nothing new in nominating oneself to the Public Appointments Unit in the Cabinet Office; but it would be interesting and relevant to know how many people (as a proportion of the total) have been so appointed.

The public are entitled to be reassured that appointees have the appropriate abilities and skills which can be demonstrated by past achievements.

The idea of a "Who's Who" register of appointees, advocated in your leader, is sound. To achieve the transparency that the public rightly seek the volume should include the background and qualifications of appointees and the names of those nominating and appointing them.

I am less sure about your belief in publishing details of party affiliation. Often, an individual's political inclination can be correctly drawn by inference. Unless someone is openly a political activist it is never possible to know for certain where anyone puts their cross in the polling booth.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY H. LLOYD,
Langacre, 73 High Street,
Little Wiltshire, Cambridge.
February 7.

From Mr Anthony Goodman

Sir, Jack Straw's attempted rebuttal (letter, February 6) of Daniel Finkelstein's article on the "quangocracy myth" makes the extraordinary claim that "exit accountability" — customer choice based on the power to transfer custom — is founded upon "a spurious invented market".

Establishing the public's right to choose between schools and hospitals, and to take their custom elsewhere if these prove inadequate, is only spurious if, as Mr Straw apparently still believes, Whitehall knows best what each of our individual needs is, and that complaining about poor service within a monopoly is a better form of accountability than letting people vote with their feet.

My experience as a school governor in Brent tells me that the market enabled by establishing choice in public services is very real and essential, for all that Mr Straw and "new" Labour would like to bury it again within unresponsive monopoly provision.

Faithfully,
ANTHONY GOODMAN,
27 Dundonald Road, NW10.
February 6.

From Sir Bryan Thwaites

Sir, An unwitting consequence of Sir Iain Vallance's remark about junior hospital doctors (letters, February 2, 4) is the revelation that his wife is the appointed chairman of an NHS trust (report, February 2).

Whether coincidence or not, the dispassionate observer might be forgiven for thinking this was an example of the degree of intransigence of influence in our society which can now be seen increasingly clearly as a by-product of Conservative policies over the last 15 years.

No wonder that there will be a change of government at the next general election.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN THWAITES,
Miltonthorpe,
Winchester, Hampshire.
February 4.

South African mines

From Mr James Duncan

Sir, Your report of January 31, "South Africa strikes jolt foreign investors", on violence at Vaal Reef's gold mine in the Orange Free State, omitted to tell your readers that, in a radio interview on January 30, the Secretary General of the National Union of Mineworkers, Mr Kgalema Motlanthe, stated that "the confrontation was sparked off by the over-enthusiastic manner in which marshals enforced a bus boycott in solidarity with the Transport and General Workers Union".

Mr Motlanthe made no mention of the migrant labour system or of the hostel conditions which your report suggests were the causal factors of the violence, nor did these factors enter the relevant discussions between mine management and the union.

Your report conveyed nothing of how rapidly and constructively mine management and the National Union of Mineworkers worked together to defuse tensions and begin a process to resolve differences between employees. Had it done so, its message to prospective investors in South Africa would not have been so destructively alarmist.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES DUNCAN
(Public Affairs Manager),
Gold and Uranium Division,
Anglo American Corporation of
South Africa Ltd,
55 Marshall Street,
Johannesburg 2001.
February 2.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Rights and wrongs of veal protests

From Mr Eric Martlew, MP for Carlisle (Labour)

Sir, The issue of veal-calf export from the United Kingdom is a question not of "free trade" but of morality. I can think of no other example where the Government has outlawed a practice here on the grounds of cruelty and then apparently washes its hands when livestock is exported to the same barbaric system in Europe.

I maintain that we could stop this export of cruelty under article 36 of the Treaty of Rome, and I urge the Government to do so with all haste.

I do not condone violence to bring about change under any circumstance, and I see it as counter-productive in deflecting the argument away from the main issue, but the cynical way the Conservatives have prevented discussion of my Bill, which sought to stop British calves going to the veal-crate industry of Europe (report, February 4), has inflamed the situation. The people were denied the right to have the matter legitimately debated in Parliament.

The protesters will not go away. The vast majority are decent law-abiding people, many of whom I suspect are Tory voters, and care deeply about this issue.

Parliament will be failing them if democratic action is not expedited to reflect these widely held views.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC MARTELEW,
House of Commons.
February 8.

From Ms Joan Court

Sir, Sir David Nash states that a "sinister minority of boot boys in balaclavas" is setting out to hijack the genuine concern of farmers about animal welfare, and you describe animal activists as a "mob" group of protesters which include "calf-loving members of the Women's Institute" (report and leading article, February 8). This sounds a splendid mixture. How do we all get on, I wonder?

I am a professional woman in my mid-seventies with direct experience of demonstrations in Shoreham, Brighton and Coventry. There are many middle-aged and elderly men and women on these demonstrations who do not quite fit into the descriptions above. Your readers may have seen some of us on television being dragged

off by the police. We tend to wear scarves and woolly hats rather than balaclavas, but the latter do protect one's ears from being grabbed by the police.

The suffering of animals in factory farms, markets, slaughter-houses and in transit has been exposed by the media and documented by scientists, but it takes time to sink in, let alone lead to a change in attitudes and eating habits.

Resistance to change is to be expected but we are a determined lot and we will not be silenced.

Yours sincerely,
JOAN COURT,
74 Sutton Street, Cambridge.
February 8.

From Mr Michael Newland

Sir, Animal welfare demonstrators would maintain that there is no difference in principle between a protest in a public place and one at someone's home, disingenuously by claiming that, subject to the lack of any violence, both fall into the category of "peaceful protest".

In reality a demonstration at someone's home is naked intimidation; it cannot be regarded as genuinely peaceful, any more than would be a threatening letter.

Until recently demonstrators knew very well that public sympathy would be forfeited by frightening people in their homes, and were reluctant to employ such methods. Since it appears that the public have grown too deficient in common resolution to apply the old sanctions, perhaps a new offence needs to be created — something along the lines of "domestic intimidation".

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL NEWLAND,
52 Leighton Road, NW5.
February 6.

From Mr R. J. Brissenden

Sir, To break the law and pay the penalty can be an honourable burden to carry. Has Bernard Levin ("Because it is the law", February 7) forgotten the suffragettes?

Yours sincerely,
R. J. BRISSENDEN,
11 Great Western Road,
Dorchester, Dorset.
February 7.

Swiss and the EU

From the Ambassador of Switzerland

Sir, I wish to congratulate you on the attractive picture Lord Kees-Boegh painted of my country and its economy (February 2, also letters, February 7). I appreciated his understanding of the Swiss people and thank him for the positive views expressed on my country's position.

He emphasised the importance placed on personal savings. May I point out, however, that Switzerland operates, together with its constituent cantons, a full welfare system which was just recently extended by the people, in a referendum, to cover medical charges.

Drake's bones

From Mr A. H. Reed

Sir, If Sir Francis Drake had wanted to be buried in London (letters, February 2) he would surely have said so. During his last illness he gave a number of instructions for action after his death but sending his body home was not one of them. The expedition had been unsuccessful and had he lived he could not have faced the Queen empty handed, "for we must have gold before we see England".

Far better to leave him, as J. S. Corbett put it, "on the scene of his earliest triumphs, lying as it were in the cradle of his reputation ...". (*Drake and the Tudor Navy*, 1936) than to dredge up whatever may be found for any of the reasons given in Mr Turner's letter.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. REED (Chairman, South West Maritime History Society),
Old Bridge House,
Uffculme, Cullompton, Devon.

Work tax reform

From Dr J. R. Waldram

Sir, Unemployment has become a destructive cancer throughout the developed world. Politicians in all parties have the strongest reasons to wish it reduced.

When someone is dismissed the average personal unemployment cost to the Government in social welfare or unemployment payments is high, especially if loss of tax revenue is included. But the employer does not have to take this cost into account. Market forces lead to the best outcome for the employer, but not for the nation.

An extreme reform might be to give all employers a flat-rate allowance for each employee, equal to the personal unemployment cost (*pro rata* for part-timers). One might pay for it by introducing an "employment levy" on all employers, Government included. This, like VAT, would be proportional to the value which the worker's activities added to the economy.

On dismissing an employee the employer would lose the allowance. The system would be neutral in tax terms, but would favour high-employment at the expense of low-employment activities.

In order to alleviate the negative consequences of the rejection of the European Economic Area in a referendum in 1992, the Swiss Government is negotiating a wide array of bilateral agreements with the European Union on specific issues, such as technical barriers to trade and public procurement, to improve access to our markets on a reciprocal basis.

It is, however, the declared policy of the Swiss Federal Council to eventually join the European Union, as stated in an official report to Parliament on November 29, 1993.

Yours sincerely,
FRANÇOIS NORDMANN,
Swiss Embassy,
16/18 Montagu Place, W1.

From Mr J. F. Broxholme

Sir, Drake's "sea grave" has been secure in the deep for centuries. Technology, though, marches relentlessly alongside acquisitiveness. In the last decade valuables from the *Titanic* have been removed from great depths.

A properly organised expedition, to bring Drake home now with due dignity and honour, would at least prevent his appearance before long in an auction-house, and unseemly bidding for his bones. Who knows what, in addition to Drake, lies in his sealed lead coffin?

We may be sure plenty of people will wish to know, and that maritime equivalents of the metal-detector will help them find out. If the Admiralty remains mired in dim disapproval (report, January 25).

Yours truly,
J. F. BROXHOLME,
Oak Lodge, Valley Farm Road,
Newton, Sudbury, Suffolk.
February 2.

It would make lower-paid workers particularly attractive to employers.

Obviously, to introduce such a reform with the employment allowance set at anything like the true national unemployment cost would cause drastic disruption. But it would not be necessary to set it so high. It could be introduced at a low level, which could be increased gradually to allow time for its economic effect to be monitored.

The system would be easy to operate within the present arrangements for National Insurance and VAT collection and would not affect personal taxation. It would generate not workfare but real jobs, efficiently governed by market forces for the benefit of the country as a whole. The level of allowance would be adjustable according to the state of the economy, giving the Chancellor a valuable alternative to interest rates as an economic lever.

Big difficulties do sometimes require big reforms. Why not?

Yours faithfully,
J. R. WALDRAM,
University of Cambridge,
Cavendish Laboratory,
Madingley Road, Cambridge.
February 6.

Seeking sanctuary for German Jews

From Mr Arie L. Handler

Sir, For many years, I have refused to enter into the debate on whether if this country and others "would have opened their doors to the Jews from Germany and Austria the Holocaust would never have happened" (letter, January 28), but the letter from Dr John Fox, Editor of *The British Journal of Holocaust Education* (February 3), referring to this as "another legend", forces me to respond.

I had the unenviable task — from 1935 to the end of 1939 — to travel regularly, under most difficult conditions, between Germany and the Western countries, including Great Britain — with permission of the Gestapo — with the sole aim to persuade Western authorities to grant visas to young people, some in concentration camps, some expecting to be arrested. I did this in my capacity as director in charge of Jewish youth organisations in Germany.

I was travelling on a German passport which was not stamped with the initial "J" (for Jew), in order to enable me — again with permission of the German authorities — to travel in and out of Germany. I will never forget the support given to me by the authorities and friendly people, particularly farmers, in all those Western countries including Great Britain. But there is no doubt that if this country, and others, would have been more helpful then, if not hundreds, of thousands of refugees and victims would have been saved, at least before the outbreak of war.

That is not a legend — that is a fact to which I and others are living witnesses. It should be an essential part of Holocaust education, the only way to make sure that it should never happen again — neither to Jews nor to Christians, Muslims, or to any in man being.

Yours faithfully,
ARIE L. HANDLER,
The Reform Club, 104 Pall Mall, SW
February 3.

Bombs at Auschwitz

From Mr Brett Radley

Sir, John French (letter, February 8) rightly states the I. G. Farbenindustrie, situated next to Auschwitz concentration camp, was destroyed by Allied bombers in August 1944. The purpose of the bombing was to destroy a German armaments factor. This was successfully achieved.

Given that the Allies were fully aware of what was going on with Auschwitz at the time, why did they not divert some of these bombs to destroy the gas chambers, crematoria and railway lines leading to them despite appeals from Jewish organisations in the free world to do so?

I am not suggesting that the 1 million deaths at Auschwitz would have been averted, but this act would have certainly slowed down the killing process.

Yours faithfully,
BRETT RADLEY,
50 Church Crescent, Finchley, N3.
February 3.

Crusaders' niche

From Professor Peter Gordon

Sir, The article accompanying a photograph of the eight identical shields from the earliest days of the crusades recently found in Israel ("Crusaders carve crude niche in history report, February 6) states that the shields were found in a niche in the wall of a Crusader castle.

Surely they represent the arms of Sir Hugh Wake (two bars and three roundels in chief) who accompanied Simon de Montfort on his crusade the Holy Land in 1240, and died the two years later.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GORDON,
Birtsmorton,
58 Wexwell Lane, Pinner, Middlesex.

From Mrs Beryl Platts

Sir, How odd that you should ask whether the crusaders' armorial found by Professor Stager at Ashkelon can be identified. These arms are many others were identified 15 years ago in my book, *Origins of Heraldry*, in which I showed that heraldry was established in Flanders long before reached England.

The Ashkelon armorials are clearly the gold roundels on a red shield (his own tunic reversed) borne by younger sons of Eustace II, Count of Boulogne, who conquered Jerusalem in 1099 and whose descendants rule the city for several generations.

Yours faithfully,
BERYL PLATTS,
9 Crooms Hill, Greenwich, SE10.

Stranger to a train

From Ms Caroline Flint

Sir, I presume that the "dreadful human beings" Steven Norris refers to (report, February 9) are the quarters of the public who would sooner not have anything to do with Mr Norris or his Government, if you believe the opinion polls.

At least I can rest easy that I won't ever have to sit next to the dreadful Mr Norris on the Tube.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE FLINT,
256 Chiswick Village, W4.
February 9.

JP 11.50



INFOTECH 28-30

The smart card that is leaping ahead of western banking



ARTS 31-33

Morrissey on why he is 'the strangest living oddity'



SPORT 35-40

King of the Kronk brings home lesson in boxing clever

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 38, 39

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10 1995

CBI demands Tories end Euro wrangle

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

BRITAIN'S business leaders have demanded an end to internal government wrangling over Europe, warning that arguments about a single currency must not undermine Britain's commitment to the single market.

Calling on ministers to set a positive agenda for European reform, Howard Davies, Director General of the Confederation of British Industry, said it was time to "recognise the reality of our current membership of the Union".

In a keynote speech, he allied the business lobby firmly with ministers who support progress to European integration. Britain could safely defer a decision on joining a single currency until economic circumstances made it an option, he said. But any withdrawal from the Union would entail enormous risks. CBI consultations showed that the "overwhelming majority" of business people were firmly in favour of Britain's continued membership of the Union.

Mr Davies's speech, in Norwich, came less than 24 hours after a group of leading businessmen wrote to *The Times* to highlight the difficulties that introduction of a single currency might pose.

Mr Davies said he was "not unhappy" with the Government's refusal to commit Britain to join a single currency. Rather, it was "eminently sensible" to wait to see how many countries would be in the core, and how Britain's performance on inflation and productivity evolves.

But in a clear warning about the limits of business support for the government position, he cautioned: "I would certainly not wish to rule out... participation in a single currency, which could put us in a very awkward position in the longer run."

Mr Davies said Britain must take far more account of the aspirations of its partners and seek to shape the course of Europe from within. Pulling out would put at risk access to markets accounting for 60 per cent of exports, undermine inward investment and leave Britain obliged to meet European standards, without any say over them.

Rather, Mr Davies said, Britain must approach discussions over European legislation and the 1996 inter-governmental conference "from the perspective of a country pledged to continued membership of the Club".

He outlined "key areas" where Britain could seek to enhance competitiveness within the Union.

By backing German calls to enlarge the Union to embrace eastern countries such as the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland, Britain could trigger reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Pushing for extension of the single market to energy, transport and telecoms would open doors for some of Britain's best companies and benefit Europe's economic efficiency.

More barriers would crumble if competition issues were settled by European, rather than national authorities. And politicians could do a great deal to improve the quality of administration by Brussels.

Instead of giving more power to the European Parliament, Britain could seek to ensure that existing powers were exercised more effectively, and seek to improve the scrutiny given to European laws by national parliaments.

Instead of opposing European social proposals, Britain should substitute its own policies to remove constraints on employment and assist labour market flexibility. Finally, Britain should insist on more cost-effective, Europe-wide environmental legislation, and prevent unilateral "protectionist" measures.



Elizabeth Forsyth arriving yesterday at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, which sent her for trial at the Central Criminal Court

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FT-SE 100	5088.0 (+28.5)
Yield	4.30%
FT-SE All share	1525.42 (+11.77)
Nikkei	18089.55 (+190.70)
New York	
Dow Jones	5940.75 (+5.58)
S&P Composite	490.91 (+0.28)
US RATES	
Federal Funds	5 1/4% (5 1/4%)
Long Bond	97 1/8% (98 1/8%)
Yield	7.85% (7.85%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	8 1/4% (8 1/4%)
9-month gilt	10 1/2% (10 1/2%)
10-year (Mar)	10 1/2% (10 1/2%)
STERLING	
New York	1.5870 (1.5837)
London	1.5880 (1.5826)
DM	2.3786 (2.3783)
FF	8.2300 (8.2275)
SFR	2.0115 (2.0135)
Yen	153.82 (153.82)
Index	78.7 (78.6)
US DOLLAR	
London	1.5877 (1.5806)
DM	6.2833 (6.2845)
SFR	1.2927 (1.2955)
Yen	98.88 (98.85)
Index	82.7 (82.7)
Tokyo close Yen 98.88	
COMMODITIES	
Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$18.58 (\$18.50)
Oil	
London close	\$978.58 (\$974.85)
* denotes midday trading price	

Leap in imports widens UK's world trade gap

By Colin Naegele

SURGING imports widened the UK's trade gap with the rest of the world in November, according to the latest Government figures, and City economists believe that it has since widened further.

The trade deficit for November was £640 million, after a revised £553 million shortfall in October, bringing the deficit for the first 11 months of last year to £8.2 billion, down from £12 billion at the same stage in 1993.

The Budget forecast for the whole of 1994 is an £11 billion deficit. Previously published figures for trade with the European Union (EU) revealed a sharp widening of the deficit in December, to £1.05 billion, which points to a full-year global deficit of below £10 billion, against £13.3 billion the year before.

Export growth remained impressive. A 3 per cent rise from October took exports to £12.1 billion in November. Richard Needham, the Trade Minister, said that exports were at record levels in both volume and value terms.

However, imports rose faster than exports, climbing 3.5 per cent to £12.7 billion, reflecting continued economic recovery. Most forecasters expect import growth to run ahead of export growth, as the competitive edge derived from lower sterling fades.

The latest three-month figures, which provide a guide to the trend in visible trade, showed exports up by 3.5 per cent in value terms and imports up by 3 per cent.

In volume terms, excluding oil and erratic items, such as aircraft and gems, exports increased by 5 per cent, while imports gained 3 per cent, suggesting a core improvement in the trade balance.

In November, however, volume exports rose by only 2 per cent, against a 3 per cent increase for imports. Excluding oil and erratics, the November deficit widened to £940 million, from £899 million.

Nadir aide is sent for trial

By Elizabeth Forsyth

ELIZABETH FORSYTH, former personal aide to Asil Nadir, the fugitive businessman, has been sent for trial at the Central Criminal Court - four months after her voluntary return to Britain for questioning by the Serious Fraud Office (Jon Ashworth writes).

Mrs Forsyth, 58, who faces two charges under the Theft Act 1968, made a brief appearance at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday. She denies handling £88,050 and £307,000 in stolen funds. Bail was extended on conditions including continuing to live with her 88-year-old mother at Great Dunmow, Essex.

Mrs Forsyth returned to the UK from northern Cyprus in September. She was chairman of South Audley Management at the time of the dawn raid that triggered the collapse of Mr Nadir's Polly Peck fruit to electronics group.

South Audley handled his private tax and property affairs. In a separate development, lawyers for Mr Nadir are expected soon to seek a stay of criminal proceedings against him. This could clear the way for his return to the UK where he is wanted on charges of theft and false accounting involving £30 million.

Mrs Forsyth's return to the UK from northern Cyprus in September. She was chairman of South Audley Management at the time of the dawn raid that triggered the collapse of Mr Nadir's Polly Peck fruit to electronics group.

South Audley handled his private tax and property affairs. In a separate development, lawyers for Mr Nadir are expected soon to seek a stay of criminal proceedings against him. This could clear the way for his return to the UK where he is wanted on charges of theft and false accounting involving £30 million.

BT redundancies and price cuts hit earnings

By Eric Reguly

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday reported lower third-quarter earnings as redundancy charges and price cuts overcame strong growth in the company's mobile-phone businesses.

The company gave no more details of the scale of next year's job losses. It said last month that fewer than 15,000 jobs would disappear in 1995-96, marking its final year of extensive job cuts. BT has shed 110,000 jobs since 1990.

Pre-tax profit in the three months to December 31 fell 5.4 per cent, to £660 million from £698 million in the same period in 1993. As a result, earnings per share declined to 7.1p from 7.3p. Pre-tax profits for the nine-month period were £2.15 billion, down 2 per cent.

The results were in line with analysts' forecasts. The shares, which fell more than 4p after the release of the results, recovered later in the day and closed at 397 1/2 p.

BT shed 11,200 workers in the nine-month period, incurring unusually high redundancy charges of £368 million compared with £292 million the year before. Total redundancies in the current financial year will rise to as much as 16,000, about 1,000 more than it had anticipated.

Excluding exceptional items, pre-tax profits rose by 0.8 per cent in the quarter and 2.5 per cent in the nine months, while earnings per share were up 3.1 per cent in both periods.

BT's overall call volume increased but price reductions of about 15 per cent last year led to lower turnover. The turnover from domestic calls, for example, declined by £184 million, or 4.7 per cent, in the nine months.

Turnover from BT's two mobile-phone businesses, BT Mobile, a service provider, and 60 per cent-owned Cellnet, increased by 43 per cent in the nine months. Marketing expenses in the mobile division were the main factor behind the £225 million increase in group operating costs in the nine months.

BT earned a pre-tax profit of £200 million on the recent \$1.8-billion sale of its small holding in AT&T. The disposal has reduced gearing to 15 per cent from 24 per cent.

BT has renewed its distribution agreement with Northern Telecom, the Canadian-based supplier of telecommunications equipment, for five more years. BT will distribute Meridian switches for private networks and Norstar switches for small offices, among other products. Northern expects to sell as much as £400 million of equipment through the alliance.

Shell sale

Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, has sold its interest in the \$1 billion Collahuasi copper project in Chile to its joint venture partners Minorco and Falconbridge after failing to secure a buyer in an auction. Collahuasi is one of the largest copper reserves in the world. Page 23

Govett action

Govett, the fund manager, faces a \$20 million legal action alleging breach of duty from a listed US fund it has managed since 1987. The action prompted a counter accusation from Govett. Page 22

C&G Bill has its last chance today

By Robert Miller

THE Government has refused to take the Private Member's Bill to give thousands of Cheltenham & Gloucester widows a share in a £10 million payout on its own parliamentary schedule. The Bill, which was 'shouted down' by Labour MPs last week, is due to be presented in the Commons again today.

Anthony Nelson, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, told *The Times* yesterday: "I've gone as far as I can in giving government support to the Private Member's Bill. I don't want to play party politics with it and if it is voted down today the chances of getting it on to the parliamentary schedule halfway through the term are very slim indeed."

The Building Societies Joint Account Holders Bill is being presented by Douglas French, Conservative MP for Gloucester. If it is passed today it would also have implications for many thousands of investors involved in the much larger merger between the Halifax and Leeds Permanent building societies.

Alistair Darling, Labour's City affairs spokesman, has promised that the Bill has the backing of his party. Mr French said last night that he would try to take it through all its Commons stages and straight into the Lords in one go.

Former nurse gets the star treatment

By Jon Ashworth



A FORMER Harley Street nurse and a top City stockbroker are among the elite young British business stars, according to a survey that may turn out to be the ball and chain they can do without.

Eileen Mulligan, who markets a non-surgical facelift product to celebrities such as the Princess of Wales, joins Hector Sants, head of derivatives at UBS, the stockbroker, on a list of 40 "people to watch" under the age of 40.

Miss Mulligan, 32, joins Luke Johnson of Fizz-Express and Jan Fletcher, Veuve Clicquot 1993 Businesswoman of the Year, in a controversial list compiled by *BusinessAge* magazine. In five years, Miss Mulligan rose from working as a nurse in Harley Street to build an international cosmetics company.

Other "young blades" on the list include Trevor Funn of Pendragon, the car company, John Mayo, finance director at Zeneca, and Andrew Regan, chief executive of the Hobson food group.

This is the third *BusinessAge* survey of its kind - the previous ones were in 1986 and 1989. It sets out to identify the 40 managers and entrepreneurs destined to lead Britain's business community into the 21st century.

But a glance at the inaugural 1986 roll-call makes chilling reading. Then, people singled out for "exceptional management talent" included John Ashcroft, former head of Coloroll, and Gerald Ratner of jewellery infancy. Howard Hodgson, the former funeral king, was there along with Olivier Roux, finance director of Guinness at the time of the Distillers takeover bid. Alan Sugar, still labouring on at Amstrad and Tottenham Hotspur, also saw his name in lights. Sophie Mirman, once riding high at Sock Shop, joined the list in 1989.

To be fair, there have been successes. Richard Branson, Michael Green and Greg Huchings all featured in the 1986 list. Howard Davies, of the Confederation of British Industry, made it in 1989.

As for Miss Mulligan, it seems the ultimate accolade is yet to come. She is rumoured to be set for a debut in *Hello!*

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Bae and Saab join forces on fighter project



Saab's JAS 39 Gripen

By ROSS TYMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AEROSPACE is to work with Saab Scania of Sweden to develop, market and build export versions of Saab's JAS 39 Gripen multi-role fighter.

The outline agreement, which needs approval from both the Swedish and British Governments, will enable them to offer the world's lowest-cost supersonic fighter-bomber to developing countries.

Gripen, which enters volume production for the Swedish air force next year, is a single-engined plane filling the gap between BAe's Hawk train-

er/light combat plane and the state-of-the-art Eurofighter 2000, now under development, which would be too expensive for most export markets.

A Saab spokesman said: "We strongly believe we have got a excellent aircraft combining performance and economy of operation. BAe has a combination of expertise and an international marketing network which will enable us to find overseas customers."

BAe said the initial agreement was intended to cover development and joint production of export versions.

If export orders materialise, BAe would probably expect to do much of the extra development at its main

fighter factory at Warton, Lancashire, and to manufacture components and sub-assemblies at its plants at Samlesbury, Lancashire and Brough, Humberside.

Final assembly would probably continue at the Saab plant in Linköping, southern Sweden, where production is about to begin, at a rate of 20 a year, of 140 aircraft ordered by the Swedish air force in fighter, ground attack and reconnaissance versions.

BAe collaborated closely with Saab during the Gripen development, which was funded by the Swedish Government. The wings were designed by BAe engineers, who are regarded as Europe's leaders in wing

technology, and the first three prototype wing sets, and all the wing tooling, were produced in Britain. British components include the radar antennae pedestal from GEC-Marconi, leading-edge flaps from Lucas Industries, gearbox by Dowty and landing gear from AP Precision.

Commercial collaboration between European defence and aerospace companies has been gathering pace. Less than two weeks ago, BAe initiated a joint marketing agreement for regional aircraft with Avions de Transport Régional, a joint venture between Aerospatiale of France and Alenia of Italy, which is intended to culminate in joint design and manufacture.

Govett accused in \$20m lawsuit by American fund

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

GOVETT & Co, the fund manager, faces a \$20 million legal action alleging breach of duty from a listed US fund it has managed since 1987.

The action prompted Govett to accuse Govett American Endeavour Fund (GAEF) of attempting to disrupt its recently announced \$250 million acquisition of Duff & Phelps.

News of the legal action sent Govett's shares sliding to close 38p lower at 31p.

GAEF has started court proceedings in the Northern District of California against

Govett and its chairman, Arthur Irwin Trueger.

The action is also against Berkeley Govett International, which managed the fund, and against Govett Berkeley International Capital Corporation, a Californian subsidiary. It alleges breaches of the US RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations) Act.

GAEF's claim that it had terminated the role of Govett as manager of the fund was denied by Govett, which accused the GAEF board of "breaches of its fiduciary du-

ties to shareholders" and said that it had recently informed GAEF that it intended to resign as manager in protest.

In a statement, Govett said it had delayed the effective date and announcement of its resignation at the request of GAEF, pending an expected decision by the board of GAEF to begin a formal wind-up of the fund.

The fund is due to wind up in 1996, when the shareholders would expect to recover value.

It was set up in 1987 with \$100 million in capital and is 75 per cent owned by Fimmbale, a Jersey-registered company.

GAEF said Fimmbale had not been aware of all information regarding about investment decisions.

Graeme Elliot, chairman of the GAEF fund, who came in when the board was restructured, denied any intention to damage the Duff & Phelps takeover.

He said the new board uncovered a "pattern of wrong-doing".

Govett was found to have taken "a commitment fee of anything between 5 and 19 per cent which they did not declare to us and which they should not have done. Had we known this, we might have looked at the investments in a different light," Mr Elliot said.

Woman appointed to Lloyds Bank board

LLOYDS BANK caught up with its Big Four rivals yesterday by appointing a woman to the main board for the first time. All the other major high street clearing banks have women on their boards (George Sivel writes).

Lloyds yesterday announced the appointment on March 1 of Dr Bridget Ogilvie, 56, as a non-executive. She is a director of the charitable Wellcome Trust, which has just sold its near 40 per cent shareholding in

Wellcome, the pharmaceutical group, to its rival Glaxo. She started with the Wellcome Trust in 1979 as co-ordinator of tropical medicine and became a director in October 1992.

Sir Robin Ibbot, Lloyds Bank chairman, said: "My colleagues and I are convinced that Dr Ogilvie, with her experience as a distinguished scientist and as the director of the world's largest private charitable trust, will bring added strength to our board."



John Callcutt, Crest Nicholson's chief executive, on site

Home sales up at Crest Nicholson

By OUR CITY STAFF

AN IMPROVING housing market helped Crest Nicholson to a strong recovery in full-year profits, but the Surrey-based housebuilder and property developer expects 1995 to be tough in the wake of recent interest rate rises.

Sales had been improving steadily as the housing market recovered from the recession, but Crest says that rate rises "have shaken confidence".

However, John St Lawrence, chairman, said: "If the consequence [of rate rises] is permanently lower inflation, then it will be of considerable benefit in the long term and lead to sustained and real profits growth."

A slight pick-up in house prices and improved profit margins helped group pre-tax profits to recover to £11.1 million in the year to October 31, from £2.13 million. However, turnover fell to £249.1 million (£272.3 million) as property activity decreased.

Better margins helped the residential division's profits to jump to £14.1 million (£5.7 million) as house sales hit a record 1,832 (1,716).

Property division profits rose by 50 per cent, to £1.7 million, but there were fewer commercial property sales.

The construction division's losses deepened to £3.5 million (£2.4 million) as contracts at "unacceptable margins" were avoided. However, the order book is up by 50 per cent and a steady move towards break-even is hoped for this year.

Earnings per share surged to 7.15p (0.01p). A final dividend of 1.4p (1p), due on April 21, makes 2p (1p) for the year.

In accordance with the standard conditions relating to the payment of the dividends declared on 11 January 1995, payments from the office of the United Kingdom Registrar will be made in United Kingdom currency at the rate of exchange of R1.5433 South African currency to £1 United Kingdom currency, this being the first available rate of exchange for remittances between the Republic of South Africa and the United Kingdom on 6 February 1995, as advised by the companies' South African bankers.

The United Kingdom currency equivalents of the dividends are therefore as follows:

Name of Company	Dividend	Amount per share
(All companies are incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)	No.	
Gold Fields Property Company Limited	144	7.21992p
New Wits Limited	88	3.06677p
Vogelstruif Metal Holdings Limited	56	4.50995p

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Greenwich House
Francis Street
London SW1P 1DH

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London Secretary
S.J. Dunning, Secretary

8 February 1995

Canada Life assets soar on takeover

By OUR CITY STAFF

CANADA LIFE, the Canadian insurance company, will nearly double its assets after yesterday's acquisition of Manulife's UK financial services business. The deal includes Canada Life taking over the smaller company's unit trust and personal equity plans business, as well as its unit-linked life assurance company. Total UK assets will rise from £1.5 billion to £2.6 billion. The cost of the purchase, funded from Canada Life's internal resources, has not been disclosed.

Canada Life, which has worldwide assets of about £25 billion (£11.5 billion), will also more than double the number of policies in force from 200,000 to 476,000, while premium income will rise from £235 million to £365 million.

Rye Mills, vice-president and general manager of Canada Life's UK operation, said: "The acquisition of the two Manulife subsidiaries represents a quantum leap for our individual insurance operation, and will provide the necessary critical mass to continue our expansion in the UK." The purchase of Manulife, also Canadian owned, requires approval of both the Canadian and UK regulators.

Photobition given £15.5m price tag

By PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARES in Photobition Group have been priced at 150p each, capitalising the London-based graphic supplies and photographic goods group at £15.5 million when it joins the market later this month.

The company was founded 27 years ago as a photographic laboratory serving the exhibition industries, but has expanded to supply graphics and other related products to the display industries. It was sold to FKB Group in 1987, but FKB went into receivership in 1990 and Photobition's management re-acquired the business.

Photobition will raise £8.5 million through a placing by

Henderson Crosthwaite Corporate Finance, with a net £2.9 million of new money to be used to grow and expand the business.

The shares being placed represent 54.8 per cent of the enlarged equity. Four directors who each own 25 per cent of the group will share £5.1 million and will dilute their shareholding. After the placing, directors and employees will hold 41.1 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

Eddie Marchbanks, chairman and chief executive, said: "Expansion of our group is an exciting development for us, our customers and our employees alike. It gives us the financial strength to continue to grow our business and develop new services for our client base."

The company made pre-tax profits of £1.01 million in the seven months to October 31, on turnover of £6.65 million. Photobition forecasts pre-tax profits of at least £1.67 million in the year to March 31, 1995, and a net final dividend of 3.6p.

The issue price represents a multiple of 10 times adjusted forecast earnings for the year to March 31, with a notional gross dividend yield of 5 per cent. Dealings are due to begin on February 17.



Marchbanks: new growth

Risk of repossession raised

By ROBERT MILLER

MILLIONS face having their homes repossessed after the Government introduces its planned cuts in mortgage income support this year.

A report, *Mortgage Payers at Risk*, published yesterday by the TUC, says that "mortgage payers are facing greater uncertainty and insecurity through government plans to end income support when they are unemployed or sick. This comes on top of mortgage payment increases due to three rises in interest rates since September, and the cuts in income tax relief on mortgage payments due in April".

The TUC, which carried out a survey of ten insurers that

offer mortgage protection cover, adds: "Millions of mortgage applicants are ineligible for mortgage payment protection insurance cover and will be vulnerable to repossession."

Those excluded from private mortgage protection schemes, says the TUC, would include part-timers working less than 16 hours. That covers about 2.6 million people together with a further 1.6 million on temporary contracts of less than 12 months. Those people who do meet the strict criteria for insurance cover face paying additional premiums of up to £30 a month on top of their monthly repayments. John Monks, TUC General Secre-

tary, said: "The Government's claims that the new flexible labour market has created many more jobs must now ring very hollow to those... who will not be able to secure mortgage protection insurance. We are calling on the Secretary of State to drop his proposals to privatise income support for mortgage payers."

Adrian Coles, Director-General of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said yesterday: "Repossessions were very high last year, at 50,000. If there is no official help to get us through this difficult phase in the housing market repossessions will inevitably increase again."

Dramatic increase in mobile phones

A REPORT on the telecoms market — now worth more than £7 billion a year — published yesterday by the Office of Telecommunications, the industry's regulator, reveals that the use of mobile telephones is increasing dramatically and that British Telecom has managed to keep its dominance in the face of the arrival of more than 100 competitors in the past few years. The report, the first of its kind, says there were 2.3 million mobile telephone subscribers in 1993-94, up 48 per cent from 1.5 million in 1992-93. Industry experts expect the number to grow to at least eight million by the year 2000.

Revenue from the mobile telephone industry, including turnover from rentals and international calls, rose 21 per cent to £514 million over the same period. BT's little market share over the two years, its revenue from local, national and international calls (excluding freephone and payphone calls) was £5.1 billion, or slightly more than 89 per cent of the market, in 1992-93. A year later, it had 87 per cent of the market. Mercury Communications, BT's biggest rival, had 10 per cent in 1992-93 and 11.6 per cent in 1993-94. BT also had 98 per cent of the country's 26.6 million directly connected exchange lines in 1992-93. Its share fell marginally to 97 per cent last year.

Income plan summons

THE influential House of Commons Treasury Select Committee has ordered the West Bromwich Building Society and the Securities and Investments Board to appear before it next month to give further evidence on unsuitable Home Income Plans sold to elderly investors. Mike O'Brien, Labour MP and a committee member, said: "This affair has dragged on for years. No one seems to care about the victims, least of all the SIB. Every effort seems to have been made to brush this sorry saga under the carpet."

Daewoo eyes UK listing

DAEWOO, the South Korean industrial conglomerate, is set to become the first Korean company to offer shares in London. The car group is understood to have plans to list its shares in London in mid-March. It is believed to have begun consultations with Stock Exchange officials about a listing and is thought to have received initial approval. Daewoo plans to float \$70 million worth of depositary receipts in London. There were reports last month that Daewoo was planning to build a £350 million car factory in Britain.

Refusal for Northern

NORTHERN ELECTRIC has been refused an appeal to the full City Takeover Panel over the controversial funding arrangements for the hostile £1.2 billion bid the regional electricity company is facing from Trafalgar House. Trafalgar's merchant bank, Swiss Bank Corporation, entered into what are effectively options on a number of regional power companies to finance the bid. The panel had earlier ruled that the SBC arrangements were not contrary to the City Takeover Code.

Impala leaps ahead

IMPALA PLATINUM HOLDINGS, South Africa's second-largest platinum group, is raising its interim dividend from 45 cents to 50 cents after a strong rise in profits in the half year to December 31. Income from platinum mining jumped to R229.5 million (£41.7 million), from R144.9 million. Attributable net profit was R128.1 million, against R83.3 million in the comparable half of the previous financial year. Impala's net cash position improved from R21 million as at June 30, 1994, to R81 million as at December 31.

Pearl sells Hallmark

PEARL ASSURANCE has sold Hallmark, its commercial insurance arm, to Hibernian Group, the Irish general insurer, for £10.8 million. Hibernian's UK general insurance branch currently generates £25.6 million of premium income. Hibernian said the acquisition of Hallmark would add to its existing mix of business. Hibernian earns 75 per cent of its existing premium income from commercial and private motor insurance, while Hallmark specialises in commercial property and associated liability insurance.

Calluna loss deepens

CALLUNA, the computer firm that joined the Unlisted Securities Market in October, made a £1.05 million loss in the six months to September 30, compared with a loss of £980,000 in the year-earlier period. The loss per share was 2.6p. There is no dividend. David Dace, the chairman, said the benefits of the October share placing, which raised £10 million, were not reflected in the figures and should be realised over the next several months. Revenue generated from Calluna's trading operations was increasing, he said.

Heiton rises 260%

HEITON HOLDINGS, the Irish builders merchant, revealed a 260 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £12.7 million in the half-year to October 31, and told shareholders it hoped to attract overseas investors following its admittance to a listing on the London Stock Exchange. Earnings per share were £13.72p, up from £1.74p, and the interim dividend has been increased from 10.55p to 10.8p. The company said the result was due mainly to a larger market share and contributions from its Buckley's branches, bought last April.

Archer selling Turret

ARCHER GROUP is to sell 81 per cent of Turret Run-Off Services, which handles the business of 27 Lloyd's of London syndicates in run-off to Randall Holdings, the insurance services firm. The decision to sell follows Lloyd's proposals to license run-off managers. Archer is selling Turret for the value of its net assets at completion, about £300,000. Archer said that after the sale it would concentrate on its underwriting performance in on-going syndicates.

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Denmark Kr	9.36	8.16
Finland Mk	7.92	7.27
France Fr	6.57	6.02
Germany Dr	2.35	2.32
Greece Dr	362.00	367.00
Hong Kong \$	19.57	19.67
India Ru	1.00	0.98
Italy Lira	2615.00	2480.00
Japan Yen	168.00	152.00
Malta	0.615	0.558
Netherlands Gld	2.218	2.266
Norway Kr	11.00	10.25
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□ BT and Ofel harmony under threat □ Generators need two years to sing in tune □ Rhythm but no blues for the trade balance

It's good to talk

AMIDST the battle-scarred landscape of the utility industries, where companies and regulators regularly hurl themselves across no-man's land at each other with bayonets and opinions fixed, one company has been able to live in remarkable peace with its natural enemy. BT and Ofel have appeared to the outside world to have an astonishingly chummy relationship with each other, with the company readily complying with the regulator's draconian price formula.

Unfortunately the exchanges between the two sides in the last few days suggest that this fragile armistice is under threat. BT does not like Ofel's demand for accounting separation at all and has made its reluctance only too plain.

In many respects, BT is in danger of becoming a victim of its own success. In the past two years, it has turned Ofel's price formula, which compels it to cut prices by 5 per cent in real terms each year, into a powerful marketing weapon by cutting selected prices which will make maximum impact among both business and personal cus-

tomers. Out has gone the peak morning rate, and in have come cheaper daytime international calls and directory enquiries.

This may have pleased BT's customers but it has prompted a great deal of wailing from the company's competitors who have discovered it is no longer easy to grab market share off the industry leader. Ofel's market share figures yesterday, which showed a slip of only 2 percentage points in BT's market share, suggest that it is more than holding its own in the telecoms industry despite being now challenged by more than 150 competitors.

This is hardly likely to please Ofel, which has an interest in driving BT's market share as low as possible to make the British telecoms market look diverse and competitive. Compare BT's continuing dominance with AT&T, which only controls around 60 per cent of the long

distance market in the US. By insisting that BT publishes its costs and the profitability of its various systems and services, Ofel is asking for some very valuable information. When the current blanket price formula expires in 1997, it would not be surprising if Ofel insisted on imposing something less crude in which it could pick and choose where BT cut prices. BT's response to Ofel this week was chilling. "It has not been BT that has, to date, taken legal action against Ofel", it concluded. That veiled threat suggests relations could become very strained indeed.

Discordant dividends

IN all the fuss and nonsense about Ed Wallis's share options, and the quite reasonable concern that the industry regulator will



blight the future of National Power and PowerGen, one intriguing inconsistency over the forthcoming £4 billion generators sale has been missed. Just why have the two companies, which might be expected to sing from the same hymn sheet, recorded such widely different tunes on forthcoming dividends?

dend announcements, and no one at the Treasury noticed the difference until it was too late to change the prospectus.

The result is that PowerGen, which has presaged an 18 per cent final dividend rise this year, looks distinctly meaner than National Power, with 24 per cent forecast. The reason is that while both companies have agreed to buy in up to 8 per cent of their share capital as part of the float, National Power has chosen to take this into account in setting the level of dividend the company can afford, while PowerGen reckons that the effects of the buy-in only kick in next year and therefore has not.

This is all terribly confusing to poor Aunt Agatha, who is being forced to buy the shares bundled together in any case. What she needs to know is that PowerGen will increase its dividend at a much higher rate than its rival from next year and the two will

eventually come into equilibrium. But the hordes of overpaid lawyers who control the shots will not allow anyone to say this officially. It has been a pleasure to set the record straight.

Music to the Treasury's ears

THE name of British Invisibles still bewilders many, but it often produces reminders of the huge contribution the services sector makes to Britain's trade balance. Its latest report, on the music business, shows that Mick Jagger, David Bowie and the like are economic power-houses that put many of this country's traditional industries in the shade. The music industry generated gross overseas earnings of £1.6 billion in 1993 which puts it on a par with such success stories as the reformed steel industry and well ahead of arms

(excluding aircraft), tractors, woollens and tobacco.

Since the Mersey Beat of the 60s, British music has been in demand worldwide and become a major net exporter, moving in the opposite direction to many of our manufacturing sectors now in minor key. Of the net earnings of £571 million in 1993, the invisible side of the music trade, such as royalties and performance fees, accounted for more than £490 million.

In the rhythm section, recording was the biggest single earner in 1993, with £323.8 million, followed by music publishing with £146 million. Musical instruments, part of the visible side of the business, showed a £26.6 million deficit.

Music exports were twice the size of imports and there are only handful of industries in Britain which can match that performance. The industry cannot afford to relax. The looming trade war between America and China has turned a spotlight on the importance of bringing the curtain down on intellectual property piracy. Otherwise, the glittering show could soon be over.

Shell sells Chilean copper project stake to partners

By CARL MORTSHED

SHELL, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, has sold its interest in the \$1 billion Collahuasi copper project in Chile to its joint venture partners, Minorco and Falconbridge, after failing to secure a buyer in an auction.

Minorco, the Luxembourg-based mining group and Falconbridge, the Canadian company, are together paying \$195 million for Shell's one third interest in Collahuasi,

one of the largest copper reserves in the world.

The sale follows Shell's disposal of Billiton, the oil company's metals division, which is being acquired by Gencor, the South African group, in a \$1 billion deal signed last November. Gencor failed to buy Shell's stake in Collahuasi, which is owned in equal parts by the joint venture partners. Both Minorco and Falconbridge hold pre-

emption rights over the Shell interest and will each own 50 per cent when the deal is completed in March.

In an attempt to secure a higher price Shell announced an auction of its interests last June but the process failed to come up with a buyer.

A spokeswoman for Minorco said that the company was not paying more for the Shell stake than it paid to join the Collahuasi venture two

years ago, despite a massive increase in the world price of copper. "We have not exercised our pre-emption rights. We sat around a table and did a deal," she said.

Copper prices have almost doubled since the end of last year in a speculative rally but recent selling by hedge funds has taken some 9 per cent from the gains.

Minorco set a benchmark price for Collahuasi last year when it offered \$110 million to Manto Blanco, its quoted Chilean subsidiary, to buy in the latter's one sixth share. The price was set independently by a local branch of NM Rothschild, the merchant bank, but the deal was never sealed because minority shareholders in Manto Blanco wished to see the outcome of the Shell auction.

Market sources suggest that prospective buyers may have been deterred from bidding for Shell's interest for fear that Minorco or Falconbridge would match bids up to and beyond \$220 million by using their right of pre-emption.

The Collahuasi copper reserves lie at an altitude of 4,500 metres in the Andes in northern Chile.

Minorco said yesterday that the mine would produce between 300,000 and 350,000 tonnes in full production, with an estimated life of 20-30 years. It is expected to come into production in 1998 and Minorco and Falconbridge will together be investing more than \$1 billion in it.

Bass blames Chancellor for sales fall

BASS, Britain's biggest brewer, blamed a fall in beer volumes on the rise in excise duty announced in the emergency Budget (George Sivel writes).

Sir Ian Prosser, chairman, told the annual meeting that takings in January were slightly below those in the same month last year, "reflecting perhaps customer reaction to the Chancellor's change of mind on beer duty at a time when discretionary income is traditionally stretched".

The volume of beer sales fell 1.3 per cent for the first 16 weeks of this financial year, which includes Christmas. Sir Ian said take-home sales also suffered from competitors' "cut-throat" pricing. However, the resultant shortfall in gross profits was substantially recovered by overhead savings. Exports showed "very strong growth". Sir Ian was confident of further progress despite demanding times for brewing and soft drinks.

Operating profits before the charge rose 16 per cent to 112 per cent, partly due to a strong performance from the group's vacuum division. Group turnover rose 3 per cent to £825 million.

Tempus, page 24

Lex management jobs go to cut costs

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

LEX SERVICE is cutting up to 100 jobs in a management shake-up of its car retailing business, intended to reduce costs and boost the bottom line.

The motor dealership group said yesterday that margins would remain under pressure in a tough trading climate, and Lex is taking an exceptional charge of £14.5 million to improve returns in the traditionally low-margin motor dealership business.

The job losses include 50 staff at the Lex Retail Group's Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, HQ, while 30 general managers are to go from the dealerships. Further job losses are expected from the corporate office in London.

Sir Trevor Chinn, chair-

man, said the company was seeking ways to improve service and efficiency. "We are forecasting an environment where trading margins and volumes are going to remain under pressure for the foreseeable future," he explained.

Lex hopes to save £4 million initially from the restructuring, with more gains in the future. The company indicated that the £14.5 million charge in the 1994 accounts would be offset by exceptional profits from the sale of businesses and properties.

Lex is also strengthening management of Lex Autosales, its used car business, and plans 25 more centres next year.

Tempus, page 24

BTP cash call to fund expansion

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

BTP, the specialist chemicals group, is launching a £51.9 million rights issue to fund its expansion plans. The cash call — the third in three years — is on the basis of one new share for every six held at a price of 225p a share. The proceeds will be used to pay for a string of small, recent acquisitions and provide funds for further bolt-on acquisitions.

BTP has bought six businesses in the past 18 months for £27.2 million. The latest deal, announced yesterday, is the £3.5 million acquisition of a plant, in north Wales, which makes a key raw material for its Nipa range of cosmetics and toiletries.

Rob Martin, finance director, said the group is actively looking at a further six or

seven acquisition opportunities which, if implemented, would cost about £30 million. "Negotiations are at varying stages," he said. "Some deals are very close, and some are over a year away."

The proceeds from the rights issue will eliminate net borrowings of £49 million. BTP has raised £140 million in the past three years to build up its core areas of biocides, adhesives and process chemicals through bolt-on acquisitions. Most of the new deals are in the adhesives area.

The group intends to recommend a final dividend of 7.15p (6.55p) for the year to March 31, making a total payout of 10.9p (10p).

Tempus, page 24



Tony Isaac, BOC's finance director, left, with Pat Dyer, the chief executive

Earthquake to cost BOC £3m

By NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

THE Japanese earthquake is expected to cost BOC, the industrial gases group, up to £3 million in lost profits due to the disruption of OSK, its subsidiary near Kobe.

The group said yesterday that the plant was still suffering from "severe transport difficulties" in the aftermath of the earthquake, which destroyed many of the roads in the area. This will hit profits in the first half of the year even though the

group's Japanese employees have repaired the minor damage to the plant and restored full production.

The group, headed by Pat Dyer, chief executive, yesterday paid tribute to the fortitude and dedication of its Japanese employees, many of whom have been made homeless and lost relatives.

BOC outlined the damage as it reported a return to profits for the three months

to December 31. Pre-tax profits were £89.4 million, compared with a loss of £8.9 million a year ago when the group was hit by an £85 million reorganisation charge.

Operating profits before the charge rose 16 per cent to 112 per cent, partly due to a strong performance from the group's vacuum division. Group turnover rose 3 per cent to £825 million.

Tempus, page 24

Spurs says fine prevented payout

By PHILIP FANGALOS

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR, the quoted Premiership football club, has again passed its interim dividend and has largely blamed the absence of a payout on the £1.5 million fine imposed on it by the Football Association.

The decision not to pay a dividend comes in spite of a surge in Tottenham's pre-tax profits, to £2.06 million, in the six months to November 30, up from £644,000 last time, on turnover of £11.7 million (£12.3 million). Earnings per share rose to 8.6p (2.7p).

Alan Sugar, Tottenham's chairman, said that the cost of redeveloping Tottenham's stadium and last summer's spend-

ing on players also had an effect, but the blame for missing the dividend is placed on the £1.5 million fine.

The fine was imposed by the FA after allegations about illegal payments to players. An FA ban on participation in the FA Cup and a league points deduction were overturned on appeal, but the original £600,000 fine was increased to £1.5 million.

Mr Sugar said: "Our cash flow position was disrupted by the fine of unprecedented proportions levied... This money would, in ordinary circumstances, have been available for dividend payments to shareholders or player purchases."

On the pitch, the club's decision to invest in international stars, including Germany's

Jürgen Klinsmann, and the appointment of Gerry Francis as manager have brought rewards. Tottenham has moved from the relegation zone earlier this season to ranking sixth in the Carling Premiership, within striking distance of a place in one of the potentially lucrative European competitions.

Mr Sugar said that he was pleased with progress made since Mr Francis's arrival, but added: "It is with great regret that the partnership of Ossie Ardiles and Steve Perryman did not work out and it was a sad occasion to lose the services of both these gentlemen, whose hearts have always been with Tottenham."

Tempus, page 24

BT Third Quarter Results

Results for third quarter and nine months to 31 December, 1994

	3 months ended 31 December (unaudited)		9 months ended 31 December (unaudited)	
	1994	1993	1994	1993
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Turnover	3,466	3,429	10,317	10,190
Redundancy charges	217	142	368	292
Operating profit	669	761	2,341	2,362
Profit (loss) on sale of group companies	33	(4)	33	(2)
Premium on repurchase of bonds	-	-	75	-
Profit before taxation	660	698	2,153	2,198
Profit after taxation	432	458	1,384	1,440
Earnings per share	7.1p	7.3p	22.1p	22.9p

Highlights excluding the impact of redundancy charges and non-recurring factors:

- Turnover up by 2.3% in the third quarter and up by 2.2% for the nine months
- Profit before tax up by 4.5% in the third quarter and up by 2.5% for the nine months
- Earnings per share up by 3.1% in the third quarter and in the nine months

Chairman's statement

The third quarter's results are encouraging for a period in which our customers have benefited from large price reductions and in which we have spent considerable amounts to develop our business. Growth in our core business has been particularly strong.

During the third quarter BT entered its second decade as a public limited state, well positioned to meet the challenges of a competitive marketplace at home and abroad, but facing an increasingly unpredictable regulatory climate in the UK."

Sir Iain Vallance
9 February, 1995

If you have any queries as a shareholder please call 0345 010505. For daily recorded information on the BT share price and matters of interest to shareholders generally, please call 0345 010707. You may telephone these numbers from anywhere in the UK for the price of a local call. Different call rates apply for non-BT customers.

British Telecommunications plc, 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares pass 3,100-level in best session of year

THE equity market shrugged off its recent lethargy and made a concerted assault on the 3,100 level. It failed to hold the high ground, but only just. The FT-SE 100 index recovered an early fall and by mid-afternoon had breached 3,100. It closed below its best, with a rise of 26.5 points at 3,099.0. It was the best performance this year, with a healthy pick-up in turnover also recorded. By the close of business 717 million shares had changed hands.

There was much back-slapping at the house of Kleinwort Benson, where equity strategist Edmund Warner was being credited as the reason for the return of investor confidence. He told clients on Wednesday night to expect a strong rise soon and warned them not to be hesitant and left behind. Other brokers remain cautious about the outlook for equities and say today's producer prices in the US will be a tough hurdle for investors to jump.

Among leaders, Rediff & Coleman stood out with 7p rise to 646p. Word is that the disposal of its Colman's food business should be smooth in a week, or two. Smith & Nephew also added 2p to 167p amid vague talk of a bid from Johnson & Johnson, the US healthcare group. The story is not a new one, but the pick-up in corporate activity means speculators will not easily rule it out.

Food retailers closed lower on the day, unsettled by reports that Tesco is further developing its electronic loyalty card which offers customers bonus points. Tesco closed 5p lower at 244p. There were also losses for Argill, 9p to 265p, Asda, 1p to 67p, J Sainsbury, 8p to 419p, Kwik Save, 4p to 552p, Iceland, 3p to 154p, and William Morrison, 2p to 159p. Budgets moved against the trend, with further bid talk lifting the price 1/2p to 32 1/2p as almost 2 million shares were traded. Elsewhere in retailing, Boots rose 8p to 484p after a visit by brokers.

Shares of Govett, the fund manager, tumbled 38p to 311p after learning that the Govett American Endeavour Fund had filed a lawsuit with the US District Court, alleging a breach of its duties as manager.

BTP recovered an early fall to finish 1 1/2p firmer at 397 1/2p. Third-quarter figures revealed an expected downturn in pre-tax profits from £698 million

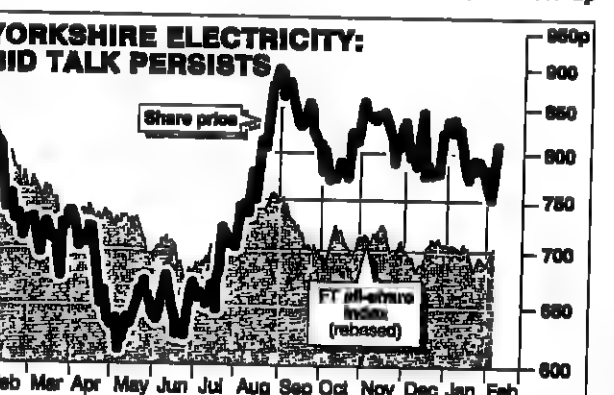
Sir Trevor Chinn, Lex chairman, is driving to cut costs

to £660 million. This was struck after taking into account an increase in redundancy costs from £142 million to £217 million, lifting the total for the first nine months to £368 million.

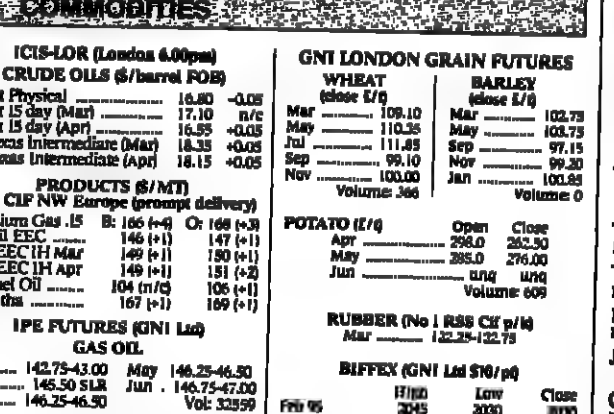
Turnover in inland calls fell almost 5 per cent as the impact of recent price cuts began to take effect, and was only partially offset by an increase

in volume growth of 7 per cent. But Sir Iain Vallance, the chairman, was cheered by 43 per cent growth during the first nine months in mobile communication sales, bringing the total number of subscribers up to 1.56 million.

The drinks sector continued to feature prominently, still rattled by this week's announcement that the Office of Fair Trading is inquiring into reports that Foster's, the Australian brewer, is about to float off its Courage brewing division on the stock market with a price-tag of about £300 million. Scottish & Newcastle, unchanged at 498p, and Whitbread, 4p off at 527p, are both known to be interested in bidding for Courage, and brokers say a deal is imminent. Foster's bought Courage from Hanson in 1986, and set up



YORKSHIRE ELECTRICITY: BID TALK PERSISTS



COMMODITIES

16.58-16.59	Jul	16.42 SLR	Vol: 774 lots	1776	17.90	3762
16.49-16.51		Vol: 39920				Open interest: 3792
					Index 1974 = 49	

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			Russell Welford
Cash: 2863.0-2863.5	Jan: 2845.0-2846.0	Vol: 3023875	
381.0-381.0	600.0-600.50	33460	
1029.0-1030.0	1051.0-1052.0	917370	
\$445.0-\$453.0	550.0-553.0	30850	
1918.5-1919.0	1960.0-1961.0	2973300	
8255.0-8260.0	9308.0-9407.0		

THE
TIMESAbbey catches
prize habit

WHEN is a bank not a bank? When it is a building society. Or so it would appear for Abbey National which, in spite of its high-profile conversion to a bank in the 1980s, this week picked up a prize at the annual Building Societies Marketing Awards ceremony, held at the Roof Gardens, Kensington. Said one of the judges: "We certainly pointed out that it was a bank. I can't remember why it was allowed to win. I think it was because all the other entries were so awful." When Abbey asked for permission to enter, the organisers said: "It depends how you see yourself." Its answer was, apparently, to submit an entry in the junk mail category — which it subsequently won. The ceremony, conducted by a rather bemused Peter Hobday of Radio 4's Today programme, was heavy on the pink smoke and bellying promotional videos, but light on entries. Some categories attracted fewer than five.

Sands of time

HAVE any women struggling to be placed in the City considered Egypt? Cairo's weekly newspaper *Sabah el-Khair* reports that Egypt has one belly dancer for every 3,000 inhabitants, and for dancing in hotels or at society weddings, the top 100 dancers could earn up to \$4,400 a night. Beginners get between \$4.5 and \$29. Now wouldn't that look good on a cv?

"It's next year's
electricity bill!"

Good fit

TOM FARMER, head of Kwik-Fit, was an apt choice to give a speech at yesterday's World Young Business Achiever ceremony, attended by the Duke of Edinburgh and whose main sponsors include The Industrial Development Board of Northern Ireland, British Airways and Worldcom Group. The world award went to Joseph Panglilan, of the Philippines, a mere 33 years old, who runs a furniture exporting firm. Farmer started business life cleaning cokers, moved into tyres and first retired when 29. Quoting Paul Getty, Farmer said that you only need to do three things to succeed in business. "Get up early. Work late. Find oil."

Off the wall

ROBERT FLEMING has sent four impressionist canvases from the collection it started in 1968 to the exhibition it is sponsoring at the Barbican Gallery in the City, but they are unlikely to be missed. Curator Bill Smith says: "Flemings has about 800 oils or watercolours, and all paintings have Scottish connections, and are mostly by contemporary Scottish artists. Since they hang in our offices worldwide, many Scottish artists are seen for the first time in our foreign boardrooms."

ANOTHER name from a City Diary fan for British invisibles, which should appeal to computer buffs: Wydsiwg (pronounced widge-widge) — What you don't see is what you get!

COLIN CAMPBELL

Adland Japan is a country
playing by its own rulesTV commercials
have created
a genre of
their own, says
Joanna Pitman

EVEN the sharpest suits and minds from the Tokyo advertising fraternity will be baffled by the riveting reports of the Saatchi & Saatchi executives in the High Court this week trying to prevent their former colleagues from setting up in competition. For a start, figureheads in the Maurice would not exist in the Japanese advertising world, let alone reach the stage of appearing to believe that they are bigger than their company.

Adland Japan is a very different place. Japanese commercials have created a genre of their own. They are sensational, lewd, repetitive, exotic, dishonest, at times stupefyingly banal, but above all the guarantee for success is that they must be obscure.

The Japanese love them. The television viewer is left in little doubt that advertisements are the main point of commercial television. In terms of money and talent invested, many of them far outclass the programmes that are slotted between them.

One commercial for a well-known brand of whisky involves a lizard, a juggler and a dwarf wandering around aimlessly in a desert while someone saws away on a fiddle in the background and a voiceover mutters poetic notions — something about "the poet of eternity, the merchant of the desert" — that might be Rimbaud, but then again, might not.

Pretty perplexing for the punters who expect at least a passing reference to a product, a brand name, some cursory mention of its supposed merits and maybe even a price. But that would be self-defeating in Japan where the public is fully aware that the sand dunes represent the whisky and that if they watch diligently next time, they might discover what sort it is.

Japanese advertisements are generally intended, in a pop video sort of style, to sum up moods in a memorable series of images which will become associated with the brand name in subsequent episodes. In another less challenging commercial, an old man, wrinkled as a walnut but dressed in the very latest gear, prances around wearing a portable CD player as if it were a neural implant. This is an electronics company's way of targeting the rapidly-growing "silver" (pensioners plus) market.

The creative juices in Japan's advertising industry clearly flow in radically different directions from those of our own, but then the industry itself is utterly different. Japan's industry is dominated by just two companies, Dentsu and Hakuhodo, which between them control most domestic billings and growing segments of the world's billings. Hakuhodo estimates that the two companies have 90 per cent of the Japanese market sewn up between



That obscure object of desire: the best Japanese advertisements are the most baffling for the consumer

them, although Dentsu, perhaps wary of claims of excessive control, puts the figure at 40 per cent.

Dentsu is undoubtedly the bigger of the two. Internationally it is ranked fifth on the basis of billings, after the WPP group, Interpublic group, Omnicom and the Saatchi group, but it claims to be the largest single agency in the world. Its billings in 1992 were \$10.5bn.

Dentsu took off in the early 1950s when it entered the television advertising market (nowadays it block buys

6 If a firm
asks you
to do
something
you do not
say no?

space on television channels and sells it on to advertisers like a kind of broker). But television is only one small facet of an empire categorised as advertising but which actually covers every aspect of a client company's image requirements, a multiplicity of services known in the trade as a "total communications solution". In addition to an agency's orthodox "above the line" functions of media advertising, Dentsu offers an open-ended range of services categorised as "below the line" such as direct mail, organising trade fairs, special offers, sponsorships, conventions and events. Dentsu will take on the role of custodian for a company's brand profile, covering everything from a design of headed notepaper to sales promotion and marketing. It will initiate business connections for a client, provide ideas for a new product,

develop the ideas, create new business opportunities, manage business trips, publish lifestyle research data, monitor national social and consumer trends. It even helps to make government policy.

"The nature of the service industry in Japan is such that relationships are paramount. The industry is so competitive that if a company asks you to do something, you do not say no. Dentsu is having to pitch for campaigns all the time so we have to be very attentive to our clients. We probably have a Dentsu representative visiting each of our clients every day," says Alison Scott, senior project manager for Dentsu's London branch.

These business connections and relationships are as important in Japanese business as it is to a Toyota engine, and in Dentsu's case they cover vast swathes of corporate Japan. In press and television they are so extensive that Dentsu is said to be able to influence the news about its own clients if they come under the media glare. Few new products will succeed in the mass market without the support of Dentsu, and the firm even organises think-tanks for government policy.

The Dentsu empire, which functioned before the war as a news agency and advertising firm called Domei and served as a propaganda vehicle for the Government between 1932 and 1945 employs 34,000 people in Japan spread

between dozens of national offices and 25 subsidiaries which include film and video companies, theme park and resort companies, real estate services, property management and insurance.

Hakuhodo by contrast seems tiny, employing 3,500 people in 15 domestic branches and with 17 more offices around the world. It offers an array of services very similar to those of Dentsu.

How do two advertising agencies manage to handle the accounts of dozens of competing companies without conflicts of interest? "In autos for example, Hakuhodo handles accounts with Honda, Toyota and Nissan but the scale and range of business is so vast that there is no question of breach of confidentiality. Each client knows that it will be allocated its own service group, probably located at some distance from that dealing with its rival's account. There is a strict understanding that no details of a client's business will be disclosed between service groups," said Trevor Morphew, client services director at Hakuhodo's London office.

Relationships once formed between a client and its agency are expected to be long-term, or as the Japanese like to say "for life". In the UK, accounts move between agencies roughly once every two years. In Japan a move is very rare and after years of working together, the agency becomes almost an integral part of the client company itself. With the shake-up of Adland UK, we should perhaps expect to see more "total communications solutions" on offer from our own advertising industry.

UK's industrial
signpost points
the wrong wayTories are on the wrong track over the
minimum wage, says John Edmonds

Trickle down economics has not worked. The rich have become richer and the poor have received very few crumbs from the rich man's table. The Labour movement would do well to press that point hard because it exposes the failure of economic policy over the past 15 years.

Phillip Oppenheim mounts a fierce argument against the minimum wage (January 11) and it is already clear that the issue is a defining point in the right/left battle. But I am surprised by his starting point: "We all want to see a sustainable improvement in the living standards of all our people, particularly the less well off. And of course we all want to see a high income, high skill economy with low unemployment and low inflation."

All this is welcome but it does not square with the reality of government policy. Unemployment has been used as the weapon to fight

policies that promise jam tomorrow. Cuts in pay and benefits seem more and more a cynical trick to help the rich at the expense of the poor.

Phillip Oppenheim quotes evidence from France and America which he believes demonstrates that a minimum wage would cause unemployment. He should read the studies more carefully. The best conclusion from the research is that a pay safety net, when introduced as part of a broader employment policy which involves skill training and a rethink of the welfare state along the lines of Labour's Borrie Commission, can improve employment and job security.

He should also remember his recent parliamentary reply to the Rotherham MP, Denis MacShane, which let the cat out of the bag. He was forced to reveal government statistics which show that employment grew more rapidly in countries that have a minimum wage than in Britain throughout the 1980s. Of course we need a high skill, high wage economy based on high training standards. But we will not persuade employers to train if we keep telling

Cuts in pay
and benefits
seem a cynical
trick to help
the rich

ing companies that the best way to prosperity is through low wages. The Government should be pointing to the need to develop the talent of people at work. We will not get an industrial society committed to life-long learning if employers keep seeing the future in terms of low wages and pay cuts.

We need to point Britain's industrial signpost in a different direction. Every company wants its workforce to be a cohesive community, committed to the enterprise and determined to achieve high quality standards. But employees cannot be expected to be wholehearted in their enthusiasm on only £3 or £2 or even £1.80 per hour. And what price teamwork where the boss earns a king's ransom and the workers worry about paying the gas bill. We will not build a modern economy by undermining our people.

The author is General Secretary of the GMB general union.



Edmonds: "rich are richer"

Why everyone in
business needs
their own mentor

A few years ago, developing the talent of people in business was seen as the sole responsibility of the personnel department. They were the ones with the budget, the time and the expertise. Now many companies believe it is line managers who should be responsible for developing the people around them. But not everyone has the kind of relationship with their line manager where they feel comfortable discussing their career goals or work problems. Indeed the line manager may often be the problem.

The answer is to have a mentor, according to David Clutterbuck, director of the European Mentoring Centre. A mentor is another manager, perhaps more senior but certainly more experienced, with whom an individual can develop a confidential long-term relationship. That person is there to help the person seeking advice through a transition period, whether it be settling into a new job or learning a new skill. The most successful mentoring relationships, says Clutterbuck, often end up as friendships.

In *Mentor Dimensions*, one of a series of management videos co-sponsored by The Times, Clutterbuck explains how to make a mentoring programme work. The rewards, he claims, are considerable. Having such a programme can enable a company to recruit the best talent, get new employees up to speed more quickly, improve staff turnover and increase the effectiveness of formal training. As a result mentoring has become one of the fastest growing methods of developing skills and talent in European companies. It is also growing rapidly in education

and in the community. But as with all arranged marriages, there are some that fail. This is usually because those involved have not been properly prepared or given clear goals. They may also have been given insufficient support. All of which, says Clutterbuck, can be avoided with effective planning and expert advice.

Once established, how can you make a powerful and positive impression on your boss? That key question is answered by Andrew Kakabadse, professor of management at Cranfield School of Management, in *Winning Ways*, another video in the series. Kakabadse admits that UK bosses, unlike many of their international counterparts, tend to be too directive allowing little leeway for the subtleties of social relationships.

Nevertheless if you want to be influential, the first thing to do is understand just who is the boss, a reasonable line of inquiry given the complexity of relationships in large international organisations.

Thereafter, the key to making a favourable impact, says Kakabadse, is to make others feel comfortable. That way, there is no problem or issue that cannot be discussed. The first step is to know your boss. The second is to trust your instincts — not easy when one lacks confidence or feels defensive, but Kakabadse explores how to manage that process. He examines the positive benefits of nurturing a feedback culture in a company. Not only will people feel better and work more effectively as a team, but planning and decision making will improve. □ See offer form right

THE TIMES
Training videos offer

DO YOU want to make a powerful impression on your boss and be influential in your office? *Winning Ways*, a training video featuring the late Brian Redhead, tells you how.

In a witty and penetrating conversation Redhead and Andrew Kakabadse, professor of management at Cranfield School of Management, make points which are vital to people who work for organisations and are deeply interested in enhancing their careers.

Another video, *Mentoring*, explores one of the fastest-growing methods of developing people within a business.

Mentoring is a way in which experienced staff help other people through transition periods, perhaps by showing them new skills or by helping them adjust to a new job.

Winning Ways runs for 27 minutes. *Mentoring* for more than 19 minutes. These videos are normally sold at £49 each. *Times* readers can buy them for the special price of £49 for two, inclusive of post and packing.

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THE TIMES

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cc. Eddie George fgi.

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We talk to the man who knows: Gordon Brown. Out now. £1.80.

INVESTORS
CHRONICLE
THE CITY INSIDE OUT

26 UNIT TRUST PRICES

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

Shares fail to hold high ground

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1994/95 High Low Company Price Div. Yld. P/E

BANKS

1994/95 High	1994/95 Low	Company	Price	Div.	Yld.	P/E
110.00	108.00	Barclays Bank	109.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
105.00	103.00	Bank of Scotland	104.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Bank of Ireland	99.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
95.00	93.00	Bank of Wales	94.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
90.00	88.00	Bank of England	89.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
85.00	83.00	Bank of America	84.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
80.00	78.00	Bank of Communications	79.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
75.00	73.00	Bank of China	74.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
70.00	68.00	Bank of India	69.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
65.00	63.00	Bank of Japan	64.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
60.00	58.00	Bank of Korea	59.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
55.00	53.00	Bank of Malaysia	54.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
50.00	48.00	Bank of Mexico	49.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
45.00	43.00	Bank of New Zealand	44.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
40.00	38.00	Bank of Norway	39.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
35.00	33.00	Bank of Russia	34.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
30.00	28.00	Bank of Singapore	29.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
25.00	23.00	Bank of South Africa	24.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
20.00	18.00	Bank of Sweden	19.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
15.00	13.00	Bank of Switzerland	14.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
10.00	8.00	Bank of Taiwan	9.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
5.00	3.00	Bank of Thailand	4.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
0.00	0.00	Bank of USA	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

DISTRIBUTORS

1994/95 High	1994/95 Low	Company	Price	Div.	Yld.	P/E
110.00	108.00	Asahi	109.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
105.00	103.00	Daewoo	104.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Hyundai	99.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
95.00	93.00	Kia	94.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
90.00	88.00	Land Rover	89.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
85.00	83.00	Mercedes-Benz	84.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
80.00	78.00	Peugeot	79.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
75.00	73.00	Renault	74.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
70.00	68.00	Seat	69.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
65.00	63.00	Skoda	64.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
60.00	58.00	Suzuki	59.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
55.00	53.00	Tata	54.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
50.00	48.00	Vauxhall	49.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
45.00	43.00	Volkswagen	44.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
40.00	38.00	Volvo	39.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
35.00	33.00	Alfa Romeo	34.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
30.00	28.00	Fiat	29.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
25.00	23.00	Jeep	24.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
20.00	18.00	Lexus	19.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
15.00	13.00	Porsche	14.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
10.00	8.00	Subaru	9.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
5.00	3.00	Toyota	4.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
0.00	0.00	BMW	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

BREWERIES

1994/95 High	1994/95 Low	Company	Price	Div.	Yld.	P/E
110.00	108.00	Asahi	109.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
105.00	103.00	Daewoo	104.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Hyundai	99.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
95.00	93.00	Kia	94.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
90.00	88.00	Land Rover	89.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
85.00	83.00	Mercedes-Benz	84.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
80.00	78.00	Peugeot	79.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
75.00	73.00	Renault	74.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
70.00	68.00	Seat	69.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
65.00	63.00	Skoda	64.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
60.00	58.00	Suzuki	59.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
55.00	53.00	Tata	54.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
50.00	48.00	Vauxhall	49.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
45.00	43.00	Volkswagen	44.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
40.00	38.00	Volvo	39.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
35.00	33.00	Alfa Romeo	34.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
30.00	28.00	Fiat	29.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
25.00	23.00	Jeep	24.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
20.00	18.00	Lexus	19.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
15.00	13.00	Porsche	14.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
10.00	8.00	Subaru	9.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
5.00	3.00	Toyota	4.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
0.00	0.00	BMW	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1994/95 High	1994/95 Low	Company	Price	Div.	Yld.	P/E
110.00	108.00	Asahi	109.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
105.00	103.00	Daewoo	104.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Hyundai	99.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
95.00	93.00	Kia	94.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
90.00	88.00	Land Rover	89.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
85.00	83.00	Mercedes-Benz	84.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
80.00	78.00	Peugeot	79.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
75.00	73.00	Renault	74.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
70.00	68.00	Seat	69.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
65.00	63.00	Skoda	64.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
60.00	58.00	Suzuki	59.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
55.00	53.00	Tata	54.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
50.00	48.00	Vauxhall	49.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
45.00	43.00	Volkswagen	44.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
40.00	38.00	Volvo	39.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
35.00	33.00	Alfa Romeo	34.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
30.00	28.00	Fiat	29.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
25.00	23.00	Jeep	24.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
20.00	18.00	Lexus	19.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
15.00	13.00	Porsche	14.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
10.00	8.00	Subaru	9.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
5.00	3.00	Toyota	4.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
0.00	0.00	BMW	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1994/95 High	1994/95 Low	Company	Price	Div.	Yld.	P/E
110.00	108.00	Asahi	109.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
105.00	103.00	Daewoo	104.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Hyundai	99.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
95.00	93.00	Kia	94.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
90.00	88.00	Land Rover	89.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
85.00	83.00	Mercedes-Benz	84.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
80.00	78.00	Peugeot	79.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
75.00	73.00	Renault	74.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
70.00	68.00	Seat	69.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
65.00	63.00	Skoda	64.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
60.00	58.00	Suzuki	59.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
55.00	53.00	Tata	54.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
50.00	48.00	Vauxhall	49.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
45.00	43.00	Volkswagen	44.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
40.00	38.00	Volvo	39.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
35.00	33.00	Alfa Romeo	34.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
30.00	28.00	Fiat	29.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
25.00	23.00	Jeep	24.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
20.00	18.00	Lexus	19.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
15.00	13.00	Porsche	14.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
10.00	8.00	Subaru	9.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
5.00	3.00	Toyota	4.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
0.00	0.00	BMW	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1994/95 High	1994/95 Low	Company	Price	Div.	Yld.	P/E
110.00	108.00	Asahi	109.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
105.00	103.00	Daewoo	104.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Hyundai	99.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
95.00	93.00	Kia	94.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
90.00	88.00	Land Rover	89.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
85.00	83.00	Mercedes-Benz	84.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
80.00	78.00	Peugeot	79.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
75.00	73.00	Renault	74.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
70.00	68.00	Seat	69.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
65.00	63.00	Skoda	64.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
60.00	58.00	Suzuki	59.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
55.00	53.00	Tata	54.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
50.00	48.00	Vauxhall	49.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
45.00	43.00	Volkswagen	44.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
40.00	38.00	Volvo	39.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
35.00	33.00	Alfa Romeo	34.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
30.00	28.00	Fiat	29.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
25.00	23.00	Jeep	24.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
20.00	18.00	Lexus	19.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
15.00	13.00	Porsche	14.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
10.00	8.00	Subaru	9.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
5.00	3.00	Toyota	4.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
0.00	0.00	BMW	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

ELECTRICITY

110	108	Asahi	109	0.00	0.00	10.00
105	103	Daewoo	104	0.00	0.00	10.00
100	98	Hyundai	99	0.00	0.00	10.00
95	93	Kia	94	0.00	0.00	10.00
90	88	Land Rover	89	0.00	0.00	10.00
85	83	Mercedes-Benz	84	0.00	0.00	10.00
80	78	Peugeot	79	0.00	0.00	10.00
75	73	Renault	74	0.00	0.00	10.00
70	68	Seat	69	0.00	0.00	10.00
65	63	Skoda	64	0.00	0.00	10.00
60	58	Suzuki	59	0.00	0.00	10.00
55	53	Tata	54	0.00	0.00	10.00
50	48	Vauxhall	49	0.00	0.00	10.00
45	43	Volkswagen	44	0.00	0.00	10.00
40	38	Volvo	39	0.00	0.00	10.00
35	33	Alfa Romeo	34	0.00	0.00	10.00
30	28	Fiat	29	0.00	0.00	10.00
25	23	Jeep	24	0.00	0.00	10.00
20	18	Lexus	19	0.00	0.00	10.00
15	13	Porsche	14	0.00	0.00	10.00
10	8	Rolls Royce	9	0.00	0.00	10.00
5	3	Subaru	4	0.00	0.00	10.00
0	0	Toyota	1	0.00	0.00	10.00

INFOTECH

Out of the backwoods

Bankers in the West are being left behind in the technology rush, reports Paul Penrose

In rural KwaZulu, Natal, pensioners line up outside a security vehicle equipped with a cash machine to pick up their pensions. The machine takes the thumbprint of each claimant, matches it against information stored on the bank card, verifies the identity of the cardholder, then dispenses the pension.

In a Moscow subway station, a customer of the Polis Insurance Company inserts a plastic card embedded with a microchip into a service till and loads the card with the electronic equivalent of roubles. To protect against inflation, the roubles are stored on the card as Deutschmarks. Whenever a transaction or withdrawal is made, the stronger Deutschmark — less susceptible to the ravages of Russian inflation — is converted back to roubles.

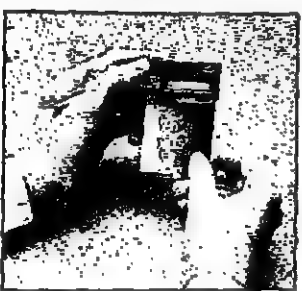
These are just two examples of how governments and businesses in emerging economies are using advanced technology to leapfrog their Western counterparts. Unburdened by any great investment in an existing technological infrastructure, less developed nations around the world are showing their Western competitors a clean pair of heels.

The trend is particularly striking in the banking sector, where the arrival of new technology, such as smart cards, is allowing Third World banks to bypass the traditional progression from savings account to cheque book, to credit cards and cash cards.

The experience of South African banks is a case in point. The end of apartheid, and the opening up of a new



Emerging economies are using advanced technologies, such as smart cards, below left, to leapfrog our banking systems



Datator, is behind the biometric pension system mentioned earlier. FNB's rival, Standard Bank, is working on a similar project to locate biometric cash machines in the offices of large employers. The machines would verify the fingerprints of the worker and download his or her salary into an electronic purse, eliminating the weekly wage packet.

South Africa's banks are not alone in their enthusiasm for modern technology. Meridian BIAO, a pan-African banking organisation, has introduced a smart-card-based electronic purse for its 40,000 retail account holders. Dubbed Meridian Card, it was introduced in Lusaka, Zambia, in September, and is being distributed to customers in Tanzania and Ghana.

Cardholders use a four-digit personal identity number to load the card with electronic currency at automatic card terminals in Meridian branches. Similar terminals at retail outlets are then used to transfer cash from the card in return for purchases.

The confluence of circumstances that have forced the pace of ultra-modern initiatives such as the electronic purse — a geographically dis-

persed population, ramshackle telecommunications infrastructure and a hard cash culture — is not unique to Africa. Inflationary economies in the former Soviet bloc and untapped markets such as China are tipped by industry experts as the next beneficiaries of the plastic banking revolution.

The British bankers behind the Mondex electronic purse have identified such underdeveloped regions of the world as prime targets for their worldwide marketing. The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation recently acquired the rights to franchise Mondex in Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, Macao, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand.

Mondex is unique among electronic cash schemes in that it allows the transfer of money from cardholder to cardholder. The portable chip cards can be loaded up with cash value using specially designed telephone handsets.

Mondex says that in China, where security vans transporting cash across the continent are regularly prey to armed

Paedophiles are said to be using the Internet

New fears about the Net

One of the problems with the vast amount of information on the Internet is that hidden away among it all is pornography. The most immediate concern has been that there is no way to control the age of people accessing the sexually explicit messages and pictures available to those who know where to look.

Now a Swedish researcher is warning parents that paedophiles are increasingly using the network to exchange pictures and messages and that they can do it anonymously. There is also the fear that they could use the Internet to make contact with children by computer and try to lure them into a meeting.

Mats Wiklund, a researcher at Stockholm University, says that in one week he was recently able to access 5,651 messages or "postings" about child sex held in four so-called "newsgroups".

Among the postings, he says, about 800 were pictures of adults and adolescents engaged in sexual acts. He adds that at least eight showed young children, possibly aged between eight and 10. "The younger ones are not being shown in indecent acts," he says, "but they are being used as bait."

There are thousands of newsgroups on the Internet, each offering a specialist area in which people can discuss common interests, ask or answer queries and "post" stories or pictures.

Even if they were removed, the chances are that the paedophiles would just put their messages and pictures somewhere else on the Internet.

Because the network makes available so much information and is held on thousands of different computers, any attempt to superimpose the content comprehensively is impossible. The situation is made more difficult because the Internet works effortlessly across national boundaries — users may often be accessing information from several different countries without even realising it.

This can leave authorities in a legal grey zone where, for example, what is stored in one country legally is accessed by someone in a country where it is illegal.

Mr Wiklund said he was able to trace the origins of the pictures he discovered only as far as a "server" computer in Finland, one of several set up privately to give Internet users anonymity. Like an electronic filter, the server receives the information but strips off its origin and relays it — anonymously — to its destination in a matter of seconds.

Mr Wiklund says: "The Internet has become a channel of communication for paedophiles. They've found a technology with which they can be anonymous yet still be reached."

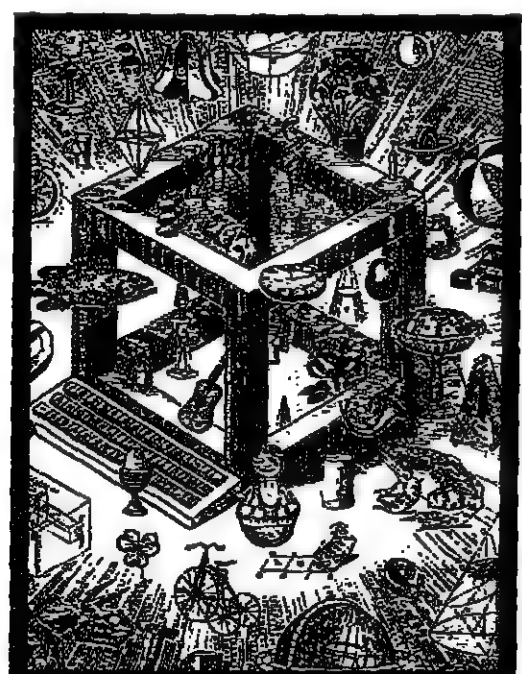
It would be impossible to supervise properly the content of the information

MATTHEW MAY

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Director of Information Technology

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- Contributing to the overall leadership of the company as a member of the senior management team, delivering real commercial benefits from marketing-led IT.

THE QUALIFICATIONS

- Exceptional technology professional with in-depth knowledge of multimedia developments. Experience of creating interactive facilities using telecons, software, and terrestrial and satellite digital broadcast technology.
- Strategic visionary who is also capable of delivering reliable and profitable services using practical project management skills. Highly commercial, pragmatic and level-headed.
- Tough and effective manager, able to lead and motivate a team and with respect from all levels as a technology professional and a mature businessperson. Able to win support for new ideas through influence and persuasion.

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- At least 5 years at a similar IT management level or as a senior consultant, building on extensive knowledge of general systems, networking and telecommunications.
- Up-to-date experience of developing and implementing innovative voice and data technology projects, including EDI, ideally gained in a multiple-site retail environment.
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New software designed to verify signatures may help to curtail forgery, says Matthew May

Signing on, signing off

Are the days about to end when cashiers and sales assistants give you furtive looks as they try to decide whether your hastily scribbled signature on a cheque or credit card slip can possibly have been done by the same person who signed the accompanying credit or cheque card? Will cash machines start to ask you to sign your name rather than put in a PIN number?

Quite possibly, says AEA Technology, which has just developed new software for automatic signature verification. The system, it claims, is a highly effective weapon against credit card, benefit and other fraudulent crime. An added advantage is that it relieves staff of the task of judging the authenticity of people's signatures, which can be unpleasant when they get it wrong.

Getting a computer to recognise a quickly executed scrawl done by the same person who made a leisurely signature on a card perhaps a year ago might seem one of the more difficult of technological tricks to perform.

Signatures are not and cannot be expected to be identical each time they are written. But the system, called Countermatch, does not look at the signatures in the same way as a human. Instead, it uses a wired pen to collect information about the shape and timing of a signature — things that are fairly consistent even though one version of a signature may look very different from another.

The means that a potential forger would not only have to make

the signature look the same but would need to reproduce the way in which it was written — a far more difficult task.

AEA — which evolved from the Atomic Energy Authority — says the result is a system that can detect a forged signature 19 times out of 20 and that is considerably more accurate than the human eye.

To work the system requires stored versions of a signature, usually three examples, that would have to be taken at an enrolment stage, for instance, when signing up for a credit card.

The precise details of how the software works are a commercial secret, says Andy Lewcock, business development manager for the company. He believes that among the organisations that can control the whole process of storing and checking signatures — such as retailers which run their own loyalty card schemes — will probably be among the first customers.

Countermatch was tested last year with the Employment Service in Liverpool and Tyneside to see whether it could verify claimants' identities. When clients signed on each fortnight they used the wired pen to sign a form which was clipped over a digitising tablet.

Four thousand people making 40,000 signatures were recorded. AEA says that 98 per cent were accepted as genuine, and that the system wrongly rejected only 0.1 per cent. There was also a deterrent effect, with a rise in the number of



Countermatch uses a wired pen to collect information about the shape and timing of a signature

individuals who stopped claiming benefits after the equipment was introduced.

Mr Lewcock believes that computerised validation of signatures will have to become common practice as organisations move

away from paper to electronic documents. Electronic business that can be conducted in seconds can still be held up at the last minute by the need for a signature on paper.

In the longer term, signing a

computer tablet next to your PC at home, for example to authorise an online payment, might well be feasible, Mr Lewcock says. He predicts that the cost of the computer tablet needed will soon drop below £100.

ONLINE

Loosened ties

IBM, long a paragon of corporate culture, has never had a formal dress policy but its unwritten dress code was starched white shirts, dark suits and dull ties.

The 800 staff at IBM headquarters in Armonk, New York, have now been told that they can show up in whatever they think acceptable. Louis Gerstner, IBM chairman, also wants to replace the headquarters with a smaller building in the woods near by to provide a "campus-like" setting.

Big, small, smaller

JUST how big is the Internet? Smaller than many think, perhaps. According to a survey by Matrix Information and Directory Services, based in Austin, Texas, the number of fully connected users is only 7.9 million people.

Even if you add subscribers to those commercial online services that allow them to link into most Internet services, the figure rises only to 13.5 million.

The 20 or 30 million figure bandied about, Matrix says, applies only if you count everyone on the planet who can send electronic mail to each other — which it estimates at 27.9 million people.

Cutting chips costs

BARELY a month after Intel faced an uproar over a flaw in its Pentium computer chips, the company has cut prices on the chips by 7 to 40 per cent.

The Pentium is presently the fastest chip on the market for personal computers and the price cuts could help to build demand for the device, whose reputation has been badly battered.

Details of the company's next chip, the P6, which will run two to

three times as fast as the Pentium, will be announced next week. Intel has also sharply cut the prices for 486 chips. PC makers have recently been dropping prices on notebook computers using older Intel chips.

On the big screen

WHAT is billed as the world's biggest television monitor went into operation last week at Tokyo metropolitan police's traffic control centre. It is being used to show traffic conditions throughout the city. The £12 million device, produced by Hitachi, is 20ft high and 83ft wide and transmits images using a rear projection method. It consists of a central screen, 40ft wide, and two square side screens.

Germany calling

CABLE & Wireless is planning to offer fax services in Germany which it says could halve the cost of business faxes to America.

The faxes will be rerouted to London and handled by Mercury, the company's British handler. Deutsche Telekom has a monopoly on basic services until 1998.

Boarding party

A TEENAGER in New Jersey who is alleged to have used his pirate bulletin board to distribute hundreds of pirated software programs has agreed to pay Microsoft and Novell \$25,000 (£15,800) and to surrender his computer equipment.

Pirate bulletin boards typically allow computer users to download illegally copied software either for a fee or by trading with software that the bulletin board does not already have. The youth is said to have distributed at least 60 Microsoft and Novell products.

Infotech is edited by Matthew May. E-mail address: matt_times@delphi.com

More than child's play

Home computers generally fall into two groups: full-blown desktop machines or games consoles that link up to a television. But some companies are hoping that many parents will consider a third option — a home computer that does not look or work like a conventional desktop personal computer but offers a greater range of software titles than does a games console.

Supporters of these "pseudo-computers" say that they are easier to operate, can be used with any television set and offer a good mix of educational and entertainment titles. But others argue that parents would be better off buying a conventional computer, which enables their family to do much more.

At the end of March, Sega, the Japanese games giant, will launch a children's computer in Europe called Pico. It will be aimed at children aged between three and six.

When parents want to buy a computer for children, what can they get?



Pico, which will cost about £150, looks like a small plastic briefcase that opens up to

reveal a flip-up stand and tray. It has no built-in monitor, but links up to a home television set.

Though Pico looks like a toy, it contains the same powerful computer chip used in Sega's Mega Drive games console. Instead of using games cartridges, Pico plays £30 interactive books, which look like the thick cardboard storybooks designed for young children.

Each page contains brightly coloured pictures and text, which are also seen on the television screen. By touching parts of the page with an electronic pen, the child can make the objects appear to come to life on the TV set.

Apple Computer is also hoping to get into this market. It is developing Pippin, a CD-Rom system which plugs into a TV and is operated by a handset rather than keyboard. It will play a mixture of educational, reference and games CD-Rom titles, many of which could be adapted from existing programs for the Apple Macintosh. Pippin CD-Roms will also play on Apple Macintosh machines.

Bandai, the Japanese toy manufacturer, plans to launch a Pippin CD-Rom player, costing about £350, later this year. But even at these prices, some parents may prefer to save up for a multimedia PC, which plays CD-Roms. At more than £1,000, the machines are not cheap, but they are versatile.

John Davitt, an educational consultant, says that parents who buy console-type machines are at the mercy of the software publishers. "You cannot do much with a console, except play software," he says. "But if you buy a home computer, your children can use the word processor, graphics and other packages to create their own learning materials."

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Waiting for Windows

Microsoft's long-delayed new operating system, Windows 95, is not a popular subject in the boardrooms of personal computer companies. By the time it finally appears, probably by September, it will be more than a year behind schedule. The delay has cost almost everyone in the computer industry dearly.

Software applications designed to take advantage of Windows 95's many new features have been sidelined for months, impossible to sell, so putting on ice the profitable upgrade cycle that keeps many of today's applications companies in business.

Hardware manufacturers, meanwhile, can do nothing with the array of new peripherals and PCs designed to take advantage of the extra speed and ease of use that the operating system promises.

Yet for one group, Windows 95 is already proving an extraordinary success. It is starting to generate a burst in recruitment activity for the technical support specialists who will hold the hands of new users.

Tony Eutlinger, director of product support services for Microsoft in the UK, estimates that the launch of Windows 95 will create 200 jobs within his own company, and in the third-party technical support companies Microsoft will

Recruitment for Windows 95 support experts has begun, says David Hewson

be using to handle the flood of inquiries it expects when the software goes public.

To that must be added the overload in requests for technical support forecast for elsewhere in the industry. The large PC manufacturers which will be including Windows 95 on their PCs have agreed to take over the job of technical support for both the operating system as well as for their own hardware. Application software companies, who frequently complain that many of the calls they receive originate from operating system issues, are likely to find themselves faced with a similar deluge of queries.

The salary for a technical support expert is between £16,000 and £40,000 a year, depending on experience and relevant skills. But the very newness of Windows 95 makes it difficult for any but the most select to be able to boast that they have a detailed working knowledge.

The operating system is a ground-up rewrite of the way PC compatible computers work. While it may have a few surface similarities with the current version of

Windows, underneath it is a completely new product.

To complicate matters further, Microsoft will be including with the system a raft of new, integrated applications, including electronic mail and online network software, a terminal program, networking links and a personal scheduler.

Planning for the increase in Windows 95 expertise in Mr Eutlinger's department has been going on for months. He has a small team working on a dedicated phone network to support the few hundred test users working with the trial version of the software.

This will increase substantially in April when Microsoft is planning to send about 40,000 copies of a new test version to selected users in Britain as part of an exercise to seed a total of 400,000 versions of the package around the world.

By launch time, Microsoft's internal technical support staff will have the capacity to handle 500 phone lines simultaneously, and a network of outside support companies will also be marning calls through a set of phone numbers

that seamlessly distribute queries across a wide spread of geographical locations.

Both Microsoft and its agents have had to take a practical attitude to hiring new staff and training existing workers. Mr Eutlinger says: "We can't hire people who can claim Windows 95 skills at the moment because so few people have experience of it."

"But we do expect people to have a good technical background and sound customer-service skills. You can be the best engineer in the world but you are of little use to us if you aren't interested in helping customers."

One long-term benefit Microsoft hopes to reap from Windows 95 is a fall-off in the number of routine, simple calls it now receives. The new operating system is packed with help facilities that lead the user through tasks such as setting up a new printer.

The future of much of the technical support, Mr Eutlinger believes, will involve more difficult, individual problems to do with software sophistication rather than everyday calls from people who cannot get their mouse to work because it is plugged into the wrong socket.

But first, Microsoft must convince the world that Windows 95 is the way to go.



Tony Eutlinger: he has a team working on a dedicated phone network to support test users

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32 ARTS

THE TIMES FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10 1995

LONDON

VISIONS OF PARADISE: The great Tippett birthday celebrations continue, with the London Symphony Orchestra presenting another of its own contributions on Sunday. Sir Colin Davis conducts a programme that puts Tippett's magisterial *Third Symphony* No 1 in A flat.

SPOTLIGHT ON SANDERLING: The renowned conductor pairs up with pianist Mitsuko Uchida and the Philharmonia Orchestra for the opening work of Sunday's concert, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat. Stravinsky's *Symphony No 1* in A makes a complete contrast for the second half.

FEASTIVAL HALL, South Bank, SE1 (0171-226 8800), Sun, 7.30pm.

JAZZ AROUND TOWN: A trio of strong choices for jazz aficionados this weekend. *Amplified* by the London Jazz Orchestra is a performance of the New York jazz scene at the Algonquin, a classy vocalist with a strong line in jazz. The *Wildebeest* Orchestra, featuring the Blackheath reed quartet, will tomorrow boss player Ebenhard Weber goes solo — proving once again that he can keep an audience in the palm of his hand. *Johnny's* Pizzini on the Park (0171-238 5073), tonight Feb 25, 8.15 and 11.15pm. *Mezz* Queen Elizabeth Hall

THE CLAUDETTE MARRIAGE: Nigel Hawthorne plays the dispirited Lord Ogilvy and directs a strong cast in the good-hearted comedy about 18th-century greed, snobbery and true love. *Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, male Sat, 2.30pm.*

DEALERS CHOICE: Patrick Markey, co-writer of the musical *Grease*, shows, directs his own first play, a comedy about an all-night car game. *National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-226 2222), Tonight, 7.30pm, tomorrow, 2.30 and 7.30pm. Mezz*

THE DUCHESSE OF MALFI: With Julie Andrews as the villainous Duchess, *Malfi* is a production by Frank Pinnock promises to be a classic. *Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-528 7755), Now previewing, 7.45pm, male Sat, 2.30pm, Opened Feb 10.*

THE MONSIEUR VIGIL: A new production of the play by Caryl Churchill, directed by Caryl Churchill, promises to be a classic. *Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-528 7755), Now previewing, 7.45pm, male Sat, 2.30pm, Opened Feb 10.*

THE LIBERTINE: Stephen Jeffreys' excellent portrait of the life and times of the rakehell Earl of Rochester in rep with *The Merchant of Venice*.

NEW RELEASES

DALLAS BOUL: (18) Golf guru Sandra Bernhard directs the Sydney suburbs. A polished affair from Umea. *Metro (0171-437 0767)*

HEAVENLY CREATURES (18): Strange, late childhood of two New Zealand teenagers. Conspiring, imaginative, true-life drama from director Peter Jackson. *Greenwich (0171-727 4043), Lancelotti (0171-226 0881) MCM Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Renaldi (0171-337 3143) Screen/Starline (0171-355 2772) Screen/Starline (0171-355 2772) Screen/Starline (0171-355 2772)*

BOULEVARD (18): Body language lecturer pursues anthropologist with FBI. Aired comedy from Peter Farmer co-director Gary Sinyor. With Matt Fretwell and Amanda Price. *Screen/Starline (0171-355 2772) Screen/Starline (0171-355 2772) Screen/Starline (0171-355 2772)*

STAR TREK: GENERATIONS (PG): Today's accessible film for the stars of television's *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Patrick Stewart meets William Shatner. Director, David Carson. *Empire (0171-437 4843)*

AMATEUR (18): Amnesia, a photographer's life with a former nun's help. Quirky, touching. *Greenwich (0171-727 4043), Lancelotti (0171-226 0881) MCM Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Renaldi (0171-337 3143) Screen/Starline (0171-355 2772) Screen/Starline (0171-355 2772) Screen/Starline (0171-355 2772)*

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WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

0171-226 8800, Sat, 7.45pm
West End, Blackheath Concert Hall (0171-494 5041), Fri, 8pm.

ELSEWHERE

BRITISH MUSIC: First production for nearly 30 years of Robert Schumann's *The Song of the Lark*, restored to its original setting in the 1940s. Paul Copley and James Furlong are the concert soloist and pianist. *South Bank, SE1 (0171-226 8800), Sun, 7.30pm.*

REPERTORY, CANTONARY SQUARE (0171-226 4455): Preview begins tonight, 7.30pm. *Opened Feb 14, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, until Mar 4.*

CARDIFF: Tadeusz Olski gives tonight's BBC National Orchestra of Wales concert a decidedly Russian flavour, with a programme of Shostakovich's *Fourth*, Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* (excerpts) and Variations on a Rococo Theme, and Stravinsky's *Poem of Ecstasy*. *St David's Hall, The Hayes, (0222 371239) Tonight, 7.30pm.*

GLASGOW: The latest of Russia continues as Alexander Lazarev conducts the Royal Scottish National

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

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ROYAL COURT, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-230 1745): Tonight, 7.30pm.

THE LIVE BED SHOW: A new production of the play by Caryl Churchill, directed by Caryl Churchill, promises to be a classic. *Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-528 7755), Now previewing, 7.45pm, male Sat, 2.30pm, Opened Feb 10.*

MAMA I WANT TO SING: The longest-running Off-Broadway black musical, based on the life of the Harlem singer Billie Holiday, is coming to London. *Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-528 7755), Now previewing, 7.45pm, male Sat, 2.30pm, Opened Feb 10.*

THE MONSIEUR VIGIL: A new production of the play by Caryl Churchill, directed by Caryl Churchill, promises to be a classic. *Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-528 7755), Now previewing, 7.45pm, male Sat, 2.30pm, Opened Feb 10.*

THE LIBERTINE: Stephen Jeffreys' excellent portrait of the life and times of the rakehell Earl of Rochester in rep with *The Merchant of Venice*.

CINEMA GUIDE

David Brown's assessment of films in London and elsewhere

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THEATRE: The power of Arthur Miller; mania under a Welsh moon; Strindberg's misogyny

Betrayal amid the black stuff

A View from the Bridge
Bristol Old Vic

LOOKING into the eyes of Eddie Carbone, protagonist of Arthur Miller's *View from the Bridge*, is like looking down long, black tunnels. When he comes into a room, he manages to make it feel darker. Those are the claims of the lawyer who is simultaneously a minor character, the play's narrator and Miller's own spokesman, and they create predictable difficulties for any director, but especially for one on the milder side of the Atlantic. How many British actors can persuade you that their eye-sockets end at a place, deep inside the earth, where only bats and warlocks dwell?

David Thacker has come up with a choice that is at once unexpected and inspired. Remember Yossner, the unemployed Liverpoolian in Alan Bleasdale's *Boys from the Blackstuff*? Recall his descent into raging obsession and inarticulate madness? He was played by Bernard Hill, one of those actors who, probably from choice, have stayed clear of metropolitan haute couture and the great national companies. But here he is, adding weight, force and danger to a production that, let's hope, will eventually be seen flying high, Bristol and Birmingham.

Carbone is an American-Sicilian longshoreman who gives refuge to two illegal immigrant brothers, only to crack up when one of them falls for his niece and she for him. His feelings for the girl always seem more than avuncular, and before long they have become destructive too. He begins by wildly accusing his rival of homosexuality, on the grounds that he is fair-haired and enjoys singing, and ends up betraying both brothers to the authorities. And it is evident from the start that all this, and worse, is inevitable, thanks to the ominous commentary of



Danger man: Bernard Hill brings weight, force and menace to the role of the troubled Eddie Carbone

Alan MacNaughtan's lawyer, who sits watching the proceedings throughout, a silver-haired, black-suited blend of morbid and mourner.

But Miller's attempt to write so inexorably traditional a tragedy presents an obvious challenge to the director and his cast. When a play moves in a dead-straight line, rather than by twists and surprises, how are they to keep tension high? Well, that is not a problem here. You just cannot take your eyes off Hill, with his black Stalin-style moustache and the private guttural festering behind it. Nor is it just a matter of physical menace. You never

quite know, because he does not know himself, whether the next moment he will rage, sob, kiss his niece or her lover on the lips, or balefully glower.

There are cavils to be made. If Thacker were able to people the starkly surrealistic apartments of Shetlag Keegan's set less skimpily, we would have a stronger sense that the offence Carbone commits is against community and conscience. Again, he cannot disguise that the lawyer's parting words are an awkward literary attempt ("he allowed himself to be wholly known") to claim Carbone as a tragic hero, or Tragic Hero. But

Thacker achieves something far more important, which is to prove Miller, the intellectual's dramatist, a writer of passion and power.

It is not just Hill who gives a strong, charged performance. It is Charlotte Cornwell as his appalled wife, Ivan Kaye as the big sister brother, Joseph Fiennes as the gentle, garrulous one, and Emer McCourt as a niece with the near-impossible task of being both sweetly passive and interestingly active. The first-night audience was on tenterhooks throughout. So was I.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Serious moonlight
Full Moon
Young Vic

AT THE full moon, lunatics were thought to reach the worst stage of their lunacy, and the moon is full for much of this sombre, haunting play, casting its baleful influence over the inhabitants of a Welsh-speaking village in the years around the First World War. Uncle Owen hangs himself, someone else slits his throat behind the school, and the narrator's mother, grieving for the early death of his husband, goes mad.

The play is adapted by Helena Kaut-Howson and John A. Owen from the 1961 novel by Caradog Prichard, three times winner of the Eisteddfod crown. The novel is evidently a major piece of literature, but since it was written in Welsh, its name and that of its author are unknown outside North Wales.

The moon shining down through scudding clouds at the rear of Sophie Jump's traverse set is a poetic image for a curse; and the references to the

Pearlryn Lock-Outs and the religious mania that followed are so brief that the play's shape is initially hard to grasp.

It is a memory play — good memories and bad — which begins with the return of the unnamed, middle-aged narrator (Jon Strickland) from across the moonlit mountain to the village of his childhood. His younger self (Simon Gregor) goes to school, fears God and desperately loves his overworked, unhappy mother.

Strickland and Gregor (the one sorrowfully nostalgic, the other fiercely innocent, both excellent) share most of the narration, but other players make their contributions. In Kaut-Howson's fluid direction, lurid crowds burst across the stage to celebrate a local hero, demonic creatures haunt the moor (Betsan Llywy), but the focus always returns to a dark pool at the foot of the mountain, a location for happiness, betrayal and death.

Perhaps the narrator's young self, unhinged by his mother's madness, commits a crime here. This may account for his long absence, and the whole play would then be an exorcism and atonement. First performed by Theatre Cymru at Mold, the resonating details of pain and loss build to a climax both strange and inevitable.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Overdrawn account
The Creditors
Gate, Notting Hill

LONDON is in the grip of Strindberg fever. There is *Eastward* at the Pit. *The Father* has taken hold at the Almeida. And now here comes *Creditors* (1888), Strindberg's short drama of marital malice and misogyny. It is at the Gate, where David Farr has already boldly staged *The Great Highway*.

Unfortunately, Fusion Theatre Company's production is not a humdrum of an evening. The piece is mildly plagued with melodrama. The young artist Adolf, in the obligatory Swedish kit of creamy linen, is pesty and perspiring. He is having the life sucked out of him — or so he comes to believe — by his older wife Tekla. He unmanfully quivers around his room in a sweat over his apparently wanton spouse. He is tempted into discontent by the satanically bearded Gustav, actually Tekla's first husband, who has resurfaced at the seaside hotel.

Gustav (Peter Tate) gives little flicks of his fingers, the devil, and turns a neat 90 degrees, whenever he is grabbed by malevolent caprice. He appears to be making complete sense to Adolf as he diagnoses the poor fellow's sympathetic labour pains as the first signs of epilepsy, requiring an abstinence from sex for six months (tempting, in passing, the poor chap's got a terminal disease anyway). I would have sought a second opinion.

Anyway, the gentlemen come to agree that, while their gender's love is all-giving, a woman's is devouringly all-taking. Sorkina Tate's Tekla, somewhere between a wicked witch and the Whore of Babylon, does not do much to make you shout, "Oh, no, it's not." Tekla likes to position herself for glittering stares out across the audience. Meanwhile Adolf has an epileptic fit on the sofa and, looking rather like Chatterbox with flu, falls to his knees and dies on the spot at the end. Jonathan Aron has been better.

Strindberg's storyline is bemusing, while his psychosocial signposts can be too blatant. But *Creditors*, partly based on the playwright's troubled marriage with Siri von Essen, is a bold dark exploration of domestic viciousness, childish dependency, and sexual-charged power games.

KATE BASSETT

ENTERTAINMENT

ART GALLERIES

CRANE KALMAN GALLERY: An selection of painting. *Downing Street, London, WC2N 2DA. Tel: 0171-494 5041*

THE PALMARIAN REWAL: *Downing Street, London, WC2N 2DA. Tel: 0171-494 5041*

CONCERTS

MAY 1995

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POP ON FRIDAY: Watts in a surname ... Tanya Donelly keeps well-crafted rock in the family ... love on the tracks

This charming mandroid

Back on tour, back in the sights of those who would destroy him, Morrissey talks to David Sinclair about love, hate and fame

I first met Morrissey in 1984. I was a researcher on the BBC television show *Eight Days a Week* and he was on the programme's celebrity panel, convened to discuss the week's gigs and new releases. The Smiths were enjoying their first flush of success, and Morrissey was the unchallenged darling of the music press. But his fellow panellists — George Michael and Tony Blackburn — were not so easily impressed and, whenever they locked horns, Blackburn in particular ran rings around the nervous-looking Morrissey.

"I was this strange, skinny creature, with a hearing aid, in a spotty blouse," Morrissey says. "Blackburn was having none of it. And who on earth can blame him? The man clearly has all his marbles firmly intact."

Michael was very much the heavily made-up superstar. "But that's his world," Morrissey says with a forgiving sigh. "If it ever becomes my world I pray that somebody assassinate me."

It shouldn't come to that. Indeed, neither superstardom nor assassination is likely to result from *World of Morrissey*, the winning title of a rather desultory compilation album released this week. A mid-price collection of singles, B-sides and other odds and ends, all of them previously available elsewhere, it is the final release under the terms of Morrissey's recording contract with EMI, a deal agreed when the Smiths signed on the dotted line in 1987, and then split up without recording another note.

But how the world of Stephen Patrick Morrissey (if not his haircut) has changed since then. Now 35, he has become the bête noire of the weekly music press, which has

turned on him with all the negative, obsessive passion of an embittered former lover. One paper, which implausibly reviled him as some sort of crypto-racist because he wrote a song called *The National Front Disco* and once wrapped himself in the Union Jack on stage, ended its review of his current single, *Boxers*, with the parting shot of "We will not forget, mate."

"They fell out with me, but they've never actually left me alone," Morrissey says. "At the time, I thought OK, fine, you can't stand the sight of me, please go away. But they've never ceased to request interviews and write about me. It's all very strange."

Such treatment has done nothing to assuage a persecution complex which has frequently revealed itself in the lyrics of songs such as *Why Don't You Find Out For Yourself* ("I've been stabbed in the back so many times I don't have any skin") and *I Am Hated For Loving* ("Anonymous call, poison pen/brick in the small of the back again"). But why does he think people are always getting at him?

"I think very few people have a grasp of me, even after all these years," he says. "My sense of humour is still completely misunderstood. I feel much as I ever did: untapped. It's childish to say misunderstood. More likely I'm the strangest living oddity."

With his lantern jaw and thinning quiff now beginning to make him look like the kind of middle-aged Northerner you would expect to find drinking stout and smoking a pipe in the local snug, Morrissey delivers his outlandish comments in a gently chiding tone. He actually drinks mineral water and has never smoked.

A surprisingly tall, willowy fig-



"We just have to walk on stage with the understanding that it might end up a complete mess, despite our best intentions": Morrissey put his art on the line in Glasgow last week

ure, he combines unbridled egocentricity with a mildly deferential air. Much of what he says is accompanied by a mischievous sparkle in his eye. You mustn't call Morrissey an "act," let alone a "pop star" ("I'm just inexplicably me"), but whatever he is, he clearly falls the taxi-driver test: most will know of him, but none could name, let alone whistle, any of his 18 hits.

"Compared to most Top 20 artists I don't sell that much at all," Morrissey says. "I'm just a quirk of nature on the sidelines, which is how I've always been."

But as the 1990s unfold, the pervasive influence of Morrissey and the Smiths becomes ever more apparent. They paved the way for Suede, while the current wave of rising, young groups such as Gene

all owe Morrissey a big debt of thanks. His biographer, David Bret, goes so far as to call him "quite possibly the most influential entertainer of his generation". So does Morrissey see a role as an elder statesman of rock beckoning?

"Do I have a choice? If such a role is thrust upon me I'll take it and stick it on the mantelpiece. But I'm really not trying to be the Lord Mayor of Pop or anything like that."

If his detractors have been roused to unnatural extremes of hatred, Morrissey's fans are no less devout in their worship of him. At the first show of his current tour last week, at the 2,000-capacity Barrowlands in Glasgow, the stage was subject to a constant stream of invaders who clambered up from the rack at the front. Mostly men,

they all gave him a big hug and a kiss before being led off by his extraordinarily patient security staff.

"A lot of them actually start talking to me, which makes it very difficult for me to concentrate on the words," he says. "But it's not something I'd ever moan about. It's just pure emotion unleashing itself. It would be pompous of me to try to curb or control it."

Although it was a somewhat hesitant first-night performance, Morrissey and his band, ably led by the guitarist Alain Whyte and Baz Boorer, went to town on the following night at the Motherwell Civic Centre, an 1,800-capacity venue well off the beaten track ("I decided to play there because it's such a nice, round, comforting name").

Morrissey gave an impassioned performance, the scope of which was exemplified by the moment when the screaming, clattering strobe-lit climax of *The National Front Disco* segued into a dulcet arrangement of the old Henry Mancini/Johnny Mercer show-tune *Moon River*.

Unfortunately, by the end of the performance the number of people breaching the stage had spiralled out of control (I counted 44 incursions during *Speedway* alone), and Morrissey abandoned ship halfway through the only encore, a drastically rearranged version of the old Smiths song *Shoplifters Of The World Unite*.

"It would be nice to be able to stand and sing, uninterrupted. But it's a great compliment that sometimes I can't," Morrissey says. "We

just have to walk on stage with the understanding that it might end up a complete and utter mess, despite our best intentions."

World of Morrissey is on Parlophone. Singles, by the Smiths, is released by WEA on Feb 20.

Morrissey's tour continues at Aston Villa Leisure Centre, Birmingham (0121-328 8330), tomorrow; Island, Ilford (0181-514 4400), Sunday; Guildhall, Portsmouth (01705 843355), Monday; Hull City Hall (01482 226655), Feb 15; St Georges Hall, Bradford (01274 752000), Feb 16; Newcastle City Hall (0191-261 2606), Feb 17; Regent, Ipswich (01473 281480), Feb 18; St Davids Hall, Cardiff (01222 371236), Feb 20; Colston Hall, Bristol (01272 263957), Feb 21; Fairfield Hall, Croydon (0181-688 9291), Feb 23; Brixton Academy, London SW9 (0171-326 1022), Feb 24; Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London WC2 (0171-340 7472), Feb 26.

Leafing through my bloody Valentines

Roses are red, violets are blue. These aren't love songs, but I think they'll do (as the poet should have said)

As Valentine's Day approaches, mushing around the corner in a soup of pink and lace and elongated *Our Time* slots, I was forced, rather unwillingly, to think about Love Songs. I hadn't even considered the subject since I was six: when, apparently, I asked my mother why nearly all the songs in the world were about "Girly and boys and goopy yuck like that."

"Well," my mother replied, "some people like that kind of stuff, and, besides, writing songs about going down the road and buying lollipops and then coming back and tidying up your bedroom would be a bit boring, wouldn't it?"

Well, no, song like that are brilliant — the surreal day-dream of *A Day In The Life* by the Beatles, for instance, with Paul and John warbling on about buses and how many holes (or moles, as I thought when I was six) it takes to fill the Albert Hall, paints a far more poignant picture of the 1960s than, say, the more abstract *Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds*. Anything that deals with the minutiae gives a far more powerful overview of the emotion that the artist is trying to convey.

It's always the details that make things gut-wrenching: that's why television news crews, when faced with a whole city flattened by war and thousands dead, will invariably focus on the by-now traditional bloodstained child's teddy bear, why finding an ex-lover's sock can break your heart more efficiently than all the rows you ever had; and why it is so the rows you have a really good bechamel sauce when you're making lasagne. One detail can sum up years and mean everything, if you choose it carefully enough.

And this is why I hate most love songs so virulently. Huge lyrical duvets of "for ever" and being "so deep and so strong" and all that endless guff about "moons" and "holding on" and "everything I do, I do it for you" leave me colder than a bed-sit bath-room. Celine Dion and *Think Twice*, *Wet Wet Wet* and *Love Is All Around*, everything by *Wet Wet Wet* and *Barry White* — it's Whitney and Mariah and girl supposed to swoon all so vague. How's a girl supposed to swoon to a sentiment as insubstantial as their lover "feeling it in my fingers, feeling it in my toes"? That lyric just makes me think of chillblains.

Perhaps it's just a girl thing. When the gossip is being dished around, and we're talking about recent paramours, my male friends' "revelations" will consist of "Mum-

bling bit of a snog mumble went to bed mumble phoning her tonight", whereas my women friends will spend two hours describing what happened before they met up with their beloved, and go on to describe with perfect recall what he wore, what he said, how he smelt, how he felt, and what he looks like when asleep.

By disturbing coincidence, this tallies up with my quickie phone-poll on *The Greatest Love Songs* ever. Male friends went for Elvis, "some reggae", *Always On My Mind* by the Pet Shop Boys, *Diamonds and Pearls* by Prince and, erm, *Ace of Spades* by Mötörhead.

When asked why, the only insights offered were "Elvis's voice goes all wobbly on the word 'love'" and "Mötörhead — it's just in there music, innit? It's just in there."

However, when I quizzed my girlfriends, most of them picked songs that were explicit, because they were explicit. "Whatta Man" by Salt 'n' Pepa is the best love song ever," Jools said. "When Salt sings 'And when I take him home he's relaxed with me', it's so brilliant, 'cos you know she's really thought about what kind of man she wants, and now she's found him she wants to list all his best points." If *It's Love* by Squeeze, *A Loon* by Kristin Hersh, *They Can't Take That Away From Me* by Cole Porter, *Why Won't You Stay?* by American Music Club and *It's Never Over* by Jeff Buckley were all swooned over by women for much the same reasons — the artist had picked up on his or her beloved's shoulders, the gap in their teeth, the way they laughed, the shadows around their eyes, and the feel of their breath on the artist's neck as they fall into sleep together — and glorified them.

Which, of course, makes them perfect love songs: when you fall in love, you fall first for the details. I spent two years utterly miserable with unrequited love for a boy, because he lit cigarettes in a cool way. My former boyfriend only became my boyfriend because of two jackets he wore, and his knack of looking the most beautiful man in the world when he played guitar. And the man I go wibbly over at the moment owes 90 per cent of that wibbling to his hair, which really is stunningly cool. Any artist who can capture the magic of cool hair in a song is on to a winner next time I go into HMV.

So after all of this, what will I be listening to on Valentine's Day? *Ace of Spades* by Mötörhead; trying to understand.



CAITLIN MORAN

Arise, royal Belly

NEW ALBUMS:
Tanya Donelly's band has the ring of confidence; plus Sleeper sing sex



Tanya Donelly: anything sister Kristin can do ...

However, on the evidence of *Smart*, this is a contest that could end up being a re-run of the race between the hare and the tortoise.

Louise Wener takes a forthright view about sex, which she equates with getting dirty and messed up. "You're delicious," she sings on *Delicious*, one of several songs, including *Swallow*, *Bedhead* and *Lady Love Your Country*, that are all grouped around a similar theme. But her lyrics lack resonance beyond their rather self-conscious shock value, and too many of the songs, written by Wener and guitarist Jon Stewart, smack of the sticky flavour of bubblegum, conjuring, at their worst, the awful spectre of Wendy James and Transvision Vamp. Basically, *Smart* is not smart enough.

EXTREME
Waiting For The Punchline (A&M 540 305)
IRKED, perhaps, that their credentials as a serious rock'n'roll band have been

undermined by the huge success of one hit single — the gloopy acoustic ballad *More Than Words* — and a couple of over-produced, middleweight albums, Extreme have made a determined effort to reposition themselves in the marketplace.

To this end the drums have been recorded loose and boxy, the harmony vocals have been cut back to a bare minimum. Nuno Bettencourt's previously slick guitar sound has been cranked and frayed to the max, and on tracks such as *Naked* and *Evangelist*, they have worked up some monster, knuckle-crunching, neo-Zeppelin riffs. The nearest thing to *More Than Words* — a tuneful love song called *Unconditionally* — is tucked away as the penultimate track; and even this accommodates a noisy guitar solo.

On a technical level Extreme make it work quite brilliantly — they are stunningly good musicians, after all. But the faint suspicion that it is all a clever, cynical forgery and that at any moment they might break into a jazz-funk, barbershop harmony routine, never entirely disappears.

THE THE
Hanky Panky (Epic 478139)

IT IS hard to think of a more bizarre mismatch of talents than those of Matt Johnson — alias The The — and the long-deceased country singer Hank Williams. But that has not prevented Johnson from applying his chronically limited vocal style — swathed, as ever, in enough echo and distortion to sink a ship — to 11 of Williams's precise and elegantly turned melodies.

By any sensible reckoning, the preposterously titled *Hanky Panky* should have been a disaster. But Johnson's treatment of songs including *Honky Tonkin*, *I'm A Long Gone Daddy* and *I Saw The Light* is so high-handed that in many cases comparisons with the original versions are all but meaningless.

Treated as the husk of an idea from which Johnson can develop his melodramatic arrangements at will, Williams's songs offer secure foundations, and his words a core emotion that lends itself rather well to Johnson's bombastic approach. Against the odds, a peculiar alchemy occurs.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 The Colour Of My Love Celine Dion (Epic)
- 2 Good News From The Next World Simple Minds (Virgin)
- 3 Carry On Up The Charts Beautiful South (Goi Discs)
- 4 Dummy Portishead (Goi Discs)
- 5 Let's Stay Leftfield (Hard Hands)
- 6 Crocodile Shoes Jimmy Nail (East West)
- 7 Bizarre Fruit M People (Deconstruction)
- 8 Worry Bomb Carter USM (Chrysalis)
- 9 Parklife Blur (Food)
- 10 Always & Forever Eternal (EMI)

Compiled by MRS

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Wales optimistic after returning to full strength

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE jut of Iwan Evans's jaw said much for the application that Wales will bring to their five nations' championship match with England in Cardiff on February 18. Evans, the most affable of men, pointed out with a grim satisfaction that his players would be able to defend their title with a full-strength team for the first time this season.

"The ball's in our court," the Llanelli wing, one of five changes to the side beaten by France last month, said yesterday. "It's up to us to perform to our best. We are still five nations' champions and looking forward to playing against England."

By contrast France, beaten 31-10 by England, have made only one change against Scotland in Paris on the same day: Laurent Seigne props instead of Laurent Benezet (who suffered a detached retina at Twickenham) and Olivier Merle, omitted after his head-but on Ricky Evans, of Wales, joins the replacements.

The game with England will be Evans's 49th international and concludes a remarkable comeback after the ugly ankle injury sustained on October 1 in a club match. He resumes from Simon Hill and reclaims the captaincy (he will lead for the 26th time) from Gareth Llewellyn. He will be joined in the side by Nigel Davies, the Llanelli centre, Mike Griffiths, the Cardiff prop, who takes over from Ricky Evans, and in the back row by Emyr Lewis and Hemi Taylor.

Capping the occasion will be the fifth appearance by Robert Jones, who was England's scrum half, out of favour during 1993-94, becomes only the third Welshman to reach a half-century of caps, behind

J. P. R. Williams and Gareth Edwards, and at 29 is still young enough to surpass the appearances (55 and 53, respectively) of those two legends of Welsh rugby.

Wales played bravely but unsuccessfully against South Africa in November, then made little impression in the 21-9 defeat by France in Paris on the opening day of the championship. In particular, the return of Taylor, who proved his fitness playing for Cardiff in their league win

over Treorchy on Wednesday, is seen as significant.

"The only way to stop them [England's big forwards] is by very aggressive gain-line tackling," Alan Davies, the Wales coach, said. But Wales will also seek to impose their own pattern on the game. "England are up there competing with the best," Davies added. "It makes it even more important that we should take the game to them, as we will have to right through this season and up to the World Cup."

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Indeed the World Cup may dominate the thinking of the leading rugby powers, but this game, for the Welsh, is special. "We have always said that Welsh rugby needs a vision beyond trying to beat England every year but, in this instance, it would do very nicely," Robert Norster, the manager, said.

"Welsh clubs and players enjoy the opportunity to be measured against the English set-up and this is one of the few occasions now when we can do so." Having said which, one of the recommendations of the Welsh Rugby Union's re-organisation steering group is to manoeuvre its domestic club structure to make room for an Anglo-Welsh league or a European competition.

At the same time, the group seeks to give privileged status (subject to a four-yearly review) to specific clubs — presumably those who have dominated the first division of the Heineken League in recent years — to allow for their expansion as centres of excellence. First division clubs are seen as an important adjunct to the national side and selected clubs would assist the marketing of the game by developing both their facilities and players, with financial assistance from the WRU.

The WRU committee is to ask the International Rugby Football Board to extend compensation for financial disadvantage — at present confined to national squad duties only — to cover all levels of the game so that anyone who loses money by playing can be compensated. The wheel has come full circle to the broken-time payments which inspired the breakaway of the northern clubs 100 years ago.



Evans, in determined mood, returns to lead Wales against England

Student rugby syllabus needs European lessons

Amid the hubbub surrounding the five nations' championship, plans are afoot for a competition with a European dimension at university level. It is what this fixture represents and what it might inspire in others that is the crucial issue. For profile, no other college or university fixture can match it.

Loughborough College and St Luke's College, Exeter, have both attempted to follow in the footsteps of the old universities. In part, they have succeeded. Their rugby, some argued, was somewhat better, and a tradition began to develop. Suddenly, with the reorganisation of higher education, the two colleges, whose influence on British sport generally is thought immeasurable, became universities and a famous fixture was allowed to disappear. Although the two colleges might not have managed to emulate Oxford and Cambridge, they must now

future of university rugby in Europe is now on the agenda. The Oxford and Cambridge Universities' match is only a starting point. It is what this fixture represents and what it might inspire in others that is the crucial issue. For profile, no other college or university fixture can match it.

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GERALD DAVIES
Rugby Commentary

days look on enviously at the profile and finances generated in the University match.

There is a genuine fear that student rugby may be in decline, not in the numbers who play the game but in the value and status attached to it. To this effect, a massive has winged its way from Washington DC. It comes from one of the most distinguished of former players, Andy Mulligan, of Cambridge University, Ireland, Barbarians and British Isles fame in the late 50s, early 60s. He is now resident in Washington but still travels extensively in Europe. He played for PUC, too, with Jean

Daniel. He has, you might say confidently, a broad view.

"University rugby may be in danger of being snuffed out," Mulligan says. "The imperatives of competition, the acceptance of semi-professionalism and the re-assertion of club rugby has squeezed university rugby in all of the five nations. There is a need to explore whether a new role can be devised for university rugby in the context of the modern game and, if so, to initiate a feasibility study for the establishment of a five nations' competition at university level. "Central to the thinking is the profound influence that

college football and athletics have had in the development and excellence of American sporting achievement, by providing the nursery from which the best athletes emerge."

The tradition has been strong in Europe, too. PUC has been important in the Colours match between the two universities in Dublin. The Universities' Athletic Union (UAAU) championship has also proved a fertile ground for nurturing talent. These should be, as Mulligan points out, the building blocks upon which the European tournament could emerge.

"But there are vital factors to take into account," he emphasises. "Any competition must dovetail with the rest of the rugby calendar and should complement, not compete with, existing leagues. The support of the rugby unions is essential. At the heart of it all

must be the desire that university rugby should seek to occupy the high ground through competition, which will offer a creative, innovative and attractive game."

As well as gate receipts and possible television rights, the financing of the venture will be sought through sponsorship, the European Commission and the unions themselves.

If rugby is to avoid the greyness and uniformity into which, at club level, it is in danger of settling, it is to retain the diversity of personality and background which adds to the game's richness and choice: if it still cherishes the vitality of interest and, in the past, innovative thinking at secondary and higher-education level, then the five nations' university rugby championship might provide the answer. With the ultimate view, perhaps, to include the whole of Europe.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Players lose chance to win car prizes

PLANS to present Suzuki cars to the six best players at the Indira Gandhi Gold Cup men's hockey tournament were scuppered by the game's governing body yesterday. Phil Appleyard, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) treasurer, said organisers had been told that no awards in cash or kind should be given to individual players.

As well as the cars, worth 450,000 rupees (£9,000), tournament officials were offering colour television sets as man-of-the-match awards. Appleyard said the organisers had been told to convert the gifts into cash to be sent to the national federations of the winners. The national bodies would have the right to use the money as they wished, he said.

In the final group matches yesterday, Australia beat South Africa 3-1 to secure a semi-final against India, the defending champions, and South Korea maintained their 100 per cent record with a 7-3 trouncing of Poland. They will meet Kazakhstan in Saturday's semi-finals.

Sevens counted out

RUGBY UNION: The four Northampton players who trained with England's sevens squad at the weekend have withdrawn (David Hands writes). Nick Beal, Matthew Dawson, Justyn Cassell (all of whom played in the winning world sevens side in 1993) and Harvey Thorneycroft, have declined to make themselves available for the Hong Kong sevens next month because it clashes with the Courage Clubs Championship game against Harlequins.

Northampton are bottom of the first division, with Harlequins one place above them. "We were totally amazed they were selected with all that has gone on with the issue of club and country," Roger Horwood, Northampton's secretary, said. "For England to come along and say we want four of your players is just crazy. It only shows you how much thought has gone into it by the powers-that-be."

Gowers seeks two titles

BADMINTON: Gill Gowers is hoping to deflect her anger at her exclusion from Olympic funding by winning two titles at the Bell Cable Media English national championships starting today at Norwich. Gowers, England's most successful player, was originally left out of the British Olympic squad because she played with foreign partners on the world circuit, but over the next three days she should be one of the front-runners for both the women's and mixed doubles titles. A compromise giving her 50 per cent Olympic funding after she agreed to play with Chris Hunt instead of Michael Sogaard, of Denmark, has still left her upset.

Macleod first in line

ATHLETICS: Karen Macleod has become the first British woman athlete to be pre-selected for the world championships in Gothenburg in August. The 36-year-old Scot will contest the marathon after finishing fourth in the Commonwealth Games race in Victoria last summer. She achieved that despite stumbling into a feeding table, suffering knee and hip damage and losing considerable ground. Macleod's selection follows that of Richard Nerurkar, the leading male British marathon runner, who was fourth at the European Championships in Helsinki. The other choices will be made after the London Marathon.

Williams leaving Didcot

MOTOR RACING: The Williams Formula One racing team is moving to a 26-acre factory site at Grove, near Wantage, in Oxfordshire. The team has been at its 6½-acre home in Didcot since 1983, but now plans to expand. The switch will take place after the world championship season ends in November. Frank Williams, the Williams team leader, also said yesterday that his decision to spurn Nigel Mansell in favour of the 23-year-old Scot, David Coulthard, could return to haunt him. "One of my nightmares is seeing Nigel destroying everyone all year," he said.

Five return positive tests

ATHLETICS: Five athletes, including the United States discus thrower, Michael Gravelle, and the heptathlete, Gea Johnson, have been suspended after positive drug tests, the International Amateur Athletic Federation confirmed yesterday. The others are the Jamaican sprinter, Aston Morgan, who is applying for American citizenship, the Lithuanian, Dalia Muscaviene, and Freddy Fernando, Caiza, of Ecuador. All except Morgan were caught in out-of-competition testing and all face possible four-year bans. All five can now request a hearing by their national federations.

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SNOW REPORTS

Country	Station	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	Last snow
AUSTRIA	Meyrhofen	10	80	fair	cloud	1 9/2
	Schladming	45	100	fair	slush	6 9/2
	Soll	40	90	fair	slush	4 9/2
FRANCE	Alpe d'Huez	150	300	good	heavy	2 9/2
	Las Arres	200m	fresh powder	above 2,000m	7/152 (fils open)	0 9/2
	Courchevel	145	270	good	powder	1 9/2
	Megève	90	230	good	slush	2 9/2
	Havellat	40	100	good	powder	3 9/2
	Tignes	195	265	good	powder	2 9/2
SWITZERLAND	C Montana	95	320	good	heavy	2 9/2
	Gmündwald	25	150	good	heavy	4 9/2
	Mürren	80	170	good	powder	1 9/2
	Villars	60	230	good	powder	5 9/2

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

Wasim's level best wrecks Zimbabwe

INSPIRED by a five-wicket haul from Wasim Akram, Pakistan made amends for their humiliating innings defeat in the first Test match to level the series with Zimbabwe yesterday. Their eight-wicket victory was secured with more than two days of the second international in Bulawayo remaining.

Wasim bowled with control and fire on a deteriorating pitch, leaving Mark Dekker Ian Healy, the Australia wicketkeeper, suffered a broken nose after allegedly being attacked by two England supporters outside a Perth hotel. He needed hospital treatment, but his place on the tour of New Zealand, which starts next week, is not threatened.

with a broken finger and David Houghton with a broken thumb. Dismissing Zimbabwe for 146, Pakistan required a meagre 61 runs to win. Wasim's achievements were marred, however, by a reprimand from the match referee, Jackie Hendricks, after Quentin Goosen, the umpire, had reported him for snatching back his hat at the end of an over when he had a leg-before appeal against Houghton turned down.

Devastating spells of fast bowling by Wasim either side of lunch turned the match in Pakistan's favour. In the morning, he removed Dekker and Alistair Campbell cheap-

ly. Wasim changed ends after lunch to dismiss Houghton for 25 and Andy Flower for eight, both from questionable leg-before decisions.

At 77 for five, Zimbabwe were still nine runs adrift of their first-innings deficit of 86 and, although Stuart Carmichael made a cultured 46 not out, they never fully recovered.

When Pakistan began their second innings, Asim Sohail launched a fierce onslaught against the Zimbabwe bowlers, with Brian Conceding 22 runs in his first over. When Asim was caught on a boundary for 46, Rashid Latif and Elahi saw Pakistan home to set up an intriguing third and deciding Test in Harare.

ZIMBABWE: First innings 174 (A D R Campbell 80).
Second innings
M H Dekker c Sohail b Wasim 9
M H Dekker c Sohail b Wasim 22
A D R Campbell c Sohail b Wasim 20
D L Houghton b Wasim 25
"A Flower b Wasim 8
G J Whitehead c Sohail b Wasim 5
Carmichael not out 46
P A Smith c Sohail b Wasim 3
Mervyn Connolly c Sohail b Wasim 1
D H Brain b Wasim 0
B Strang b Wasim 0
Total (2 wk) 11-3-28-3

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-88, 2-60, 3-77, 4-93, 5-108, 6-145, 7-145, 8-145, 9-145, 10-145, 11-145, 12-145, 13-145, 14-145, 15-145, 16-145, 17-145, 18-145, 19-145, 20-145, 21-145, 22-145, 23-145, 24-145, 25-145, 26-145, 27-145, 28-145, 29-145, 30-145, 31-145, 32-145, 33-145, 34-145, 35-145, 36-145, 37-145, 38-145, 39-145, 40-145, 41-145, 42-145, 43-145, 44-145, 45-145, 46-145, 47-145, 48-145, 49-145, 50-145, 51-145, 52-145, 53-145, 54-145, 55-145, 56-145, 57-145, 58-145, 59-145, 60-145, 61-145, 62-145, 63-145, 64-145, 65-145, 66-145, 67-145, 68-145, 69-145, 70-145, 71-145, 72-145, 73-145, 74-145, 75-145, 76-145, 77-145, 78-145, 79-145, 80-145, 81-145, 82-145, 83-145, 84-145, 85-145, 86-145, 87-145, 88-145, 89-145, 90-145, 91-145, 92-145, 93-145, 94-145, 95-145, 96-145, 97-145, 98-145, 99-145, 100-145, 101-145, 102-145, 103-145, 104-145, 105-145, 106-145, 107-145, 108-145, 109-145, 110-145, 111-145, 112-145, 113-145, 114-145, 115-145, 116-145, 117-145, 118-145, 119-145, 120-145, 121-145, 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Garrison Savannah heads Pitman's haul

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

GARRISON SAVANNAH, the equine love of Jenny Pitman's life, yesterday spearheaded a 1,111-4 four-furlong race for the Upper Lambourn trainer and is now 16-1 joint favourite for the Martell Grand National.

Despite his advancing years, the 1991 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner still relishes a battle and after touching down over the final fence in the Racing in Wessex Chase at Wincanton alongside Young Hustler, it was the 12-year-old who found a better turn of foot to score by two lengths.

"He will kill me this horse; he will give me a heart attack one day. I have never spent 7,500 guineas more wisely," Mrs Pitman said. "For him to win over two miles five furlongs round here on this ground is unbelievable. In our wildest dreams you could not ask for a better servant."

"Garry," as he is known in the Pitman yard, may return to Wincanton in a fortnight's time for the Jim Ford Chase as he prepares for Aintree where he has been allowed 9st 4lb. In 1991 he finished runner-up behind Seagram in the Grand National, having touched down four lengths clear after the final fence.

Esha Ness, who "won" the void Grand National two years ago, is another of Mrs Pitman's six intended Aintree runners and although beaten a distance in third place he plugged on gamely in only his second race in the past two seasons. John White, who

partnered the horse in the 1993 Aintree fiasco, is training in Ireland but resumed his riding partnership with the 12-year-old and commented: "He gave me a good feel and I was pleased enough with him."

Garrison Savannah's success completed a remarkable 90 minutes for Mrs Pitman which began when Gilpa Valu justified 15-8 favouritism in the 16-runner Equitable House Investments Novices' Handicap Chase at Huntingdon.

The six-year-old owes his name to a brand of dog food made by a company run by the horse's owner. "It's a constant reminder if he

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: BIG MATT (3.00 Newbury)
Next best: Second Call (4.00 Newbury)

doesn't do well where he will end up," Nina Thesiger joked, "although I hasten to add we don't use horse meat or any red meat in our dog food."

Despite an unsuitably slow early pace, Nahthen Lad brushed aside the challenges of Robbery Lea and Deduce to land the Sidney Banks Memorial Novices' Hurdle and keep the Pitman bandwagon rolling. "We think this is a nice horse but he is still a pup; it's all so new to him. He has all the qualities but has not figured out how to put them

together. When he does, he will be very good," Mark Pitman, assistant to his mother, added.

Back at Wincanton ten minutes later and Jibber The Kibber at last justified his tall home reputation by springing a 16-1 shock in the Premier National Hunt Auction Novices' Hurdle — and so set the stage for Garrison Savannah.

Peter O'Sullivan, the distinguished BBC commentator, is not a frequent visitor to Huntingdon but his presence there yesterday was a hint in itself to punters as Amigos, owned jointly with the Marquesa de Moratalla, lined up for the Long Stanton Handicap Hurdle. Backed down to 6-4 favouritism, defeat was never in prospect as Eddie Callaghan rode a smart waiting race from the front to beat Salwan by 12 lengths.

"He never coped with soft ground as a young horse and when you think that on February 18, 1992 he met Salwan at levels and was beaten 30 lengths it is an enormous turnaround," O'Sullivan said. Having missed The Ladbroke and the Lanzarote Hurdle due to coughing, Amigos will now be aimed at the Imperial Cup at Sandown.

The Amigos victory completed a famous press room double at the Fenland course for half an hour earlier Northern Saddler, owned by a syndicate which includes four racing journalists, recorded the tenth success of his career in the Farren Fen Chase.



Gilpa Valu, far side, clears the ditch ahead of Dennington at Huntingdon to start the Pitman bandwagon rolling

John Burke dies aged 41

JOHN BURKE, the last man to ride the Cheltenham Gold Cup and Grand National winners in the same year, has died, aged 41. He passed away at home after a heart attack.

Burke was a successful point-to-point and amateur rider for the champion trainer Fred Rimell at Kinnerley before turning professional at the start of the 1974-75 season. He became first jockey for Rimell on the enforced retirement of Ken White in 1976.

When he achieved his Gold Cup-Grand National feat, on Royal Frolic and Rag Trade

in 1976, he became only the fifth jockey to do so. The other jockeys to complete this notable double are Tim Cullinan (1930), Gerry Wilson (1936), Fred Winter (1962) and Tommy Carberry (1975).

Bob Champion, a weighing room colleague, said: "John was a smashing character who was full of life and a great horseman. He will be sadly missed." Burke rode Champion's famous Grand National winner, Aldanid, in the jumping scenes for the film *Champions*.

Another former Kinnerley

jockey, Sam Morshead, who is clerk of the course at Ayr, also paid tribute to Burke's horsemanship. "He was superb with the horses and a very good jockey. He always worked hard and produced the goods when the chips were down," he said.

Burke gave up riding at the end of the 1984-85 season. In recent years Burke had been head lad to the Kinnerley trainer Simon Christidis, who said he was "shocked and saddened" by his death. He leaves a wife, Lynn, and two children, Kelly and Josh.

NEWBURY

THUNDERER	3.30 Duncan
2.00 Barna Boy	4.00 SECOND CALL (nap)
2.30 Anzum	4.30 Ranzel
3.00 Big Matt	

Brian Beal: 3.30 Duncan.

GUIDE TO OUR ONLINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 19 (OFF, 6.5) (M) D. R. H. 12-0. B. West (7) 80
Races numbers, 20-49 are form (F) - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 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Fat Freddie M takes the microphone and goes "right off the meter" when he gets into full stride with his basketball commentaries. Photograph: James Morgan

Fearless Freddie shoots from the lip

Fat Freddie M. it stated on the handout received by this column from Fat Freddie M's agent, is the basketball commentator: upbeat, knowledgeable, fluent, fearless. He can also be heard on Kiss FM, where he is a DJ.

The column consulted Kiss FM's programme schedule, gleaned that the Fat Freddie M Show — soul, swing, R & B, reggae — is on Fridays from 1am to 4am and opted to catch him within the column's working hours. The agent arranged accreditation at the London Arena in Docklands for the first leg of the National Cup semi-finals featuring London Leopards versus Thames Valley Tigers. Tip-off 7pm.

The column has not previously visited Docklands, though it has friends who have. A futuristic railway takes passengers smoothly and quickly from Bank to Cross Harbour station opposite the Arena.

There is a large entrance

with a thinnish crowd trickling through the turnstiles; the column was referred to an altogether smaller entrance marked VIPs, where trade was substantially brisker and Fat Freddie M's agent introduced herself, looked acutely embarrassed, queued for the column's ticket, obtained this and faded from the story.

London Arena's VIP badge admits the bearer to an area that dispenses wall-to-wall hot dogs, tortilla chips and popcorn in cardboard buckets; load Budweiser and colas.

It is reminiscent of Planet Hollywood with the volume turned down a notch; it is in fact an outpost of Planet Hollywood and the volume increases as the evening progresses.

A week ago the column had seen a film called *Hoop Dreams*: a fascinating, sunningly well-made, three-hour documentary charting the lives of young basketball players over a period of five years, homing in on the problems of



FREUD ON FRIDAY

combining life with the burning desire to make it into big-time sport. The column is also an admirer of, and has empathy with, Mr Shaquille O'Neal who is 7ft 3in... which is actually the correct height for this column's weight. London Arena is rigged to seat 2,400 people, was about half full of impeccably behaved, mainly youthful, well-over-50-per-cent-female spectators.

The game starts and after a while the cacophony of sound can be broken down into

components: pre-programmed theme music from the console (a bespoke keyboard to provide background tunes over which the operator taps in notes that simulate appropriate chants from the punters, the noise of a freelance drummer and a few eager trumpeters among the spectators), the smooth commentary, the cheers of the crowd and an occasional shriek by a woman who looked like a pillar of the Home Counties' mothers' guild. She was actually the girlfriend of the Tigers and England captain, Peter Scantlebury, 6ft 6in.

There is also the chattering of cheerleaders called the Wildcats who wave pom-poms and dance — well, gyrate — during time-outs in Doc Marten ballet shoes.

The team coaches move along the touchlines giving complicated signals to their players, replacing them, minding ecstasy, horror, occasional

fury with a referee. They are dressed in slacks and jackets like men in the windows of Simpsons in Piccadilly.

To the delight of most and the shrill wail of the woman from the Thames Valley, Leopards came with a late burst to win the home leg of the semi-final by six points. The column, having perceived that the commentary was a competent Wolstenholme of a man called Simon Matlock, set out to find Fat Freddie M, who had been the reason for its presence at Docklands.

Fat F is a wannabe basketball voice with no contract; however, many who have heard him hail him as the most charismatic of them all. He is 6ft 4in, weighs 220lb, is 32 years old, comes from Wandsworth, got two O levels, works as youth club team leader and the column's grandson, Tom, who used to go to the club to work out, speaks of him fondly and with respect.

Why "Fat" we asked. It is a

name I got when I did basketball commentaries in the States in 1988. FAT stands for Full A Truth.

Were you a player? No. I watched a lot of tapes, am well animated and when I took the microphone I was able to constantly raise the profile of the game, would tell it like it was. "You're playing terrible. They're going to sack you."

Why would they not let you do tonight's commentary? I'm a threat to their jobs. I'm becoming an issue.

We listen to a tape of his commentary. The sound engineer had warned us that he goes right off the meter, and he does, but his fluency, speed of identification and intelligent reading of the game are impressive.

What have been the highlights of your life? Getting married, meeting Shaq O'Neal and shaking hands with Stevie Wonder.

This column believes he will go a long way; and might need a new agent.

Rothwell seeking cheap day return

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

ROTHWELL Town's players will clamber aboard a coach at 7.30am tomorrow to make a journey to Gateshead that few at the Northamptonshire club could have anticipated when beginning an FA Trophy campaign for the first time in September.

In the light of the decision this season that all Beazer Homes League midland and southern division clubs should play in the Trophy, Rothwell, champions of the United Counties League for the past two seasons and promoted to

up there on Friday night. Many of the players had taken time off on Monday to go to Newbury and couldn't afford to do it again.

"Then there is the financial side of the equation. Every penny we pay out we have to raise ourselves at the club. For all that, it's a marvellous club. We're close-knit and there is tremendous camaraderie. We'll be going up there to give a good account of ourselves."

Colin Richardson, the Gateshead manager, will be wary of Rothwell. When he was in charge of the Bridlington Town side that won the Vase in 1993, he came across Rothwell in the fifth round.

"It was our best Vase run," Murray said. "We'd reached the last 16 for the first time and they put us out with a goal in the last minute of extra time after we'd played 105 minutes with ten men."

"Our captain, Adrian Sheerin, was sent off for a foul from which he was later absolved. It was a dreadful refereeing blunder. He gave handball when it was the goalkeeper's hand that touched it," Sheerin, a "five-foot nothing" midfielder player, still wears the captain's armband.

Murray, who manages a company building mobile homes in Irthlingborough, is well placed to sense equal anticipation as Rushden and Diamonds head off to play Farnborough Town. Ilkeston Town, also Beazer Homes League newcomers, go to Welling United.

Sammy McIntyre will lead Macclesfield Town, the Conference leaders, to a place he knows well: Hursley Cross, the home of Ashton United, where he was manager for a season.

Little pins blame on McGhee as deal folds

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

BRIAN LITTLE, the Aston Villa manager, has strongly criticised his successor at Leicester City, Mark McGhee, after the proposed transfer of Gary Parker to Filbert Street fell through.

Parker, the Villa midfielder player, had agreed personal terms with Leicester but Little claims McGhee then asked for details of the transfer — originally believed to be worth £600,000 — to be revised.

Little, who resigned from Leicester before taking over at Villa Park after the dismissal of Ron Atkinson, said yesterday: "It's scandalous and totally out of order. McGhee and I agreed a deal last Friday and that's why I allowed Parker to speak to Leicester."

"Then, yesterday morning, McGhee phoned to say he was stunned and find it hard to believe two managers cannot make an agreement that stands."

Parker, who is also attracting the interest of Ipswich Town, said: "I feel like I have been on a fool's errand. I just wish the clubs would get their acts together."

Tim Flowers, the Blackburn Rovers goalkeeper, has withdrawn from the England squad to meet Ireland in Dublin on February 15 after breaking a toe in the FA Carling Premiership match with Leeds United last week.

Crystal Palace have signed the midfielder player, Björn Enqvist, from Malmö FF, of the Swedish first division. Ron Noades, the Palace chairman, said: "Björn is only 17 and a very promising player to add to our already rich seam of young professionals."

Aimless Arsenal take their eye off the greater cause

Simon Barnes sees a passion of purpose and identity burning brightly in Milan

The first leg of the European Super Cup finished 0-0, a not untypical Arsenal scoreline. Fabio Capello, coach of their opponents, AC Milan, was asked if his team were an Italian Arsenal. His denial was uncompromising: "Assolutamente no!"

On Wednesday, he made his denial in a still more emphatic form, and without saying a word. Milan beat Arsenal 2-0 to win the trophy with a style, a sense of purpose, and a sense of self-certainty that no English club can match.

It was the sort of game that lifts English footballing people into positive orgies — the term needs coming, if only for football — xenophilia: love of the foreign, the exotic. Milan showed us the passing, the sureness of touch, the coolness of finishing; above all, the sense of team identity.

Milan are like Arsenal in that they don't win by huge margins, and they don't have a

system of stars and spear-carriers. But Milan are utterly unlike any team in the Premiership in the way that they can control a game: the pace and the patterns of football. When you play Milan, Milan set the agenda.

"They are the best team in Europe, or in the world," George Graham, the Arsenal manager said. "We've learnt a lot from them. But we could have given them a better game, though, and I am disappointed."

Arsenal enthusiasts will point to a disallowed goal as the turning point. Had Wright's stabbing shot been allowed to stand, there is no telling what the corporate

frenzy of cup-tie football might have achieved.

A result like that, possible but unlikely, would have muddied issues that the actual result made uncompromisingly clear. Capello summed up his team's virtues: "It is in the attitude, in the mentality, something that the older players transfer to the younger. They learn self-sacrifice."

This is nothing less than the cultural transmission of the team's identity. The team has great players, but around each of them, there is the stamp of restraint, almost a sense of anonymity. They are servants of a greater cause.

And strangely enough, this pattern has a very clear precedent in English football. Not in Arsenal, but in the Liverpool of the Eighties, the legend of cultural transmission via the boot-room, the same sense of shared purpose, shared identity.

Arsenal have a tradition all right, but in a season of troubles, it has not given them the help and the solace they require. Problems include investigations into Graham's financial dealing, Merson's alcoholism and, on the pitch, the appalling disciplinary record. Meanwhile, results get worse — one win in the past eight matches.

Arsenal needed this bauble to rescue a sad season. Despite their brave showing, the clear sense of being at least two classes behind Milan will inflict psychological scars at a critical time. An Arsenal supporter, emerging from Milan cathedral, announced: "I've lit two candles — one for George and one for the team." Perhaps not enough.

As for Milan, Capello said that his team were doing all right, but were still two months away from their best. Frightening thought.



Wright has contributed to a poor disciplinary record

Earnest look at comedy

The Importance of the Importance. Radio 4, 9.30pm.

A wit once said of *The Importance of Being Earnest* that if you take away the brilliance, all you are left with is more brilliance. A more humdrum analogy is the one about peeling layers off an onion. *Kaleidoscope's* anatomy of Wilde's quintessential high comedy made me think more of a house of cards; remove one carelessly and the whole affair comes tumbling down. Luckily, there is no such disaster tonight. Presenter Paul Doust and his panel of actors, directly check critics, including the redoubtable Michael Billington, carefully check the foundations of this magnificent theatrical edifice before removing a wall or two to examine the contents. They include, of course, Lady Bracknell's imperishable handbag.

Music of the Silk Road. Radio 3, 4.30pm.

It was not only silk from China, and gold, silver and glass from the Mediterranean that were once carried by camel trains along the East-West trade routes known as the Silk Road. There was a cultural exchange, too, and it is the musical dividends that Sara Nuttall examines in her eight-part series. She begins in Turkey where it comes as a surprise to hear a song from Persia being performed at a wedding. There are more surprises. I expected the Dances of the Whirling Dervishes to sound like the Anatolian equivalent of Khachaturian's "Sabre Dance" — all flashing eyes, teeth, and feet. What we hear is graceful, non-whirling stuff. Peter Daville

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
<p>FM Stereo, 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright in the Morning 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa L'Anson, including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, including The Amazing Spiderman; and at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection 10.00 John Peel: Psychronic Impressionism from six-piece Protogipsy 1.00am The IFM Rap Show, with Westwood</p>	<p>All times in GMT, 4.30am BBC English 4.45 FM Stereo 6.00 Newshour 6.00 Morgenmagazin 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Off the Shelf: The Trial of the Virgin 7.30 Isman 8.00 News 8.15 Words of Faith 8.15 Music Review 8.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Global Concerns 9.30 On the Move 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 News 10.01 Focus on Faith 10.30 World Ranking 11.00 Newsdesk 11.15 BBC English 11.45 Morgenmagazin 12.00 News 12.10pm Words of Faith 12.15 Isman 12.45 Sport 1.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Off the Shelf: The Trial of the Virgin 2.45 Global Concerns 3.00 News 3.15 Music Review 4.00 News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 News 5.05 World Business Report 5.15 BBC English 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 News 7.05 Outlook 7.30 Isman 8.00 News 8.15 Words of Faith 8.15 The World Today 8.30 Europe Today 8.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 People and Politics 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 World Ranking 12.00 News 12.15pm The Essential Duran 12.30 From the Week-ends 12.45 The Learning News 1.00 News 1.05 Outlook 1.30 Worldbeat 1.45 Jazz Now and Then 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 The Vintage Chart Show 4.00 Newsdesk</p>
RADIO 2	CLASSIC FM
<p>FM Stereo, 6.00am Sarah Kennedy with the Early Show 8.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Woman 8.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Ed Stewart 4.05 John Dunn 7.00 Maestro: Musical quiz 7.30 Friday Night in Music Night 8.45 Treasure Island (5/10) 9.00 Listen to the Band: Bolton's Wingates Band under John Hudson 10.00 Alan Titchmarsh: Radio 2 Arts Programme. News of three new theatrical productions 12.05am Digby Falshawer with Jazz Notes: featuring Harry Gold and his Pieces of Eight, recorded at the Stables, Waverdon 1.00am Jon Briggs</p>	<p>6.00am Nick Bailey 8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00am Classic 6.00 Classic Reports 7.00 Classic Weekend 8.00 Evening Concert 9.00 Michael Neppan 1.00am Robert Borth</p>
RADIO 3	VIRGIN
<p>5.55am Weather 7.00 On Air, with Catherine Young: Schubert (Overture: Die Zaubertanz); Bach (Prelude Sonata in G minor); 7.30 Quarter Collector: Haydn (String Quartet in B flat, Op 55 No 3); 8.05 Telemann (Trumpet Concerto in D); Lassus (Meditation); Ben Corvenne; Scriabin (Le Poème de l'enfance) 9.00 Composer of the Week: Strauss (Melody Duet): Concertino; Rube, melne Seel (Four Last Songs) 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Edward Elgarman, 10.00 Artist of the Week: John Williams, guitar; Barrios Mangore (Acorchique: Choro de saudade); 10.10 Beethoven (Symphony No 4 in B flat); Rodrigo (Concierto de Aranjuez); Louise Ferrand (Trio in E minor); Sibelius (Tapiola) 12.00 Voices: Songs from Mahler's song-cycle Des Knaben Wunderhorn (1) 1.00pm Chamber Music from Manchester: The Australian Quartet performs Larry Sitsky (String Quartet No 3); Douglas Weiland (String Quartet) 2.00 Schools: The Song Tree: Music Course 1 — The Venerable Hole 2.15 Together Series 2.30 Dance Workshop 2.50 Poetry Corner 3.00 Mining the Archive: The first of six programmes celebrating the careers of great masters through their BBC and other recordings. Gordon Stewart recollects the career of the Russian pianist Tatiana Nikolova</p>	<p>4.30 Music of the Silk Road: See Choice 5.00 The Music Machine: Tommy Pearson on complex music in the future about the future: Arnold (The Pastoral: Liebeslied); Handel (Overture: Alceste); Constant Lambert (The Rio Grande) 7.30 Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, under Andrew Parrott: Neil Jenkins, tenor. The orchestra's first concert about the future: Brandon Hill, Bristol, its new residency; Boyce (Overture No 5 in F; Ayre (Not on beds of falling flowers); Now (Prelude: A Little Bit of Love); Cornu; Abel (Symphony in E flat, Op 7 No 6); 8.15 An Enlightened Decade: Andrew Life assesses the achievements of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and talks to David Rickard, the general manager about the future: 8.35 Abel (Cantata: Fair Colla love pretentend); Handel (Water Music) 9.20 The English Cadence 9.35 Romanticism: Joan Rodgers, soprano; Roger Vignoles, piano. A selection of songs by Tchaikovsky, Berg and Schoenberg 10.30 The John Field Notebook: No 16 in F; No 18 in E (Daniel, piano) 10.45 Friday: Mouth of a Demagogue, Eyes of a Poet. In a new poem, Simon Armitage investigates the socialist Victor Gollancz who won a parliamentary seat in 1907 but disappeared from his home ten years later 11.30-12.30am Midnight Oil</p>
RADIO 4	
<p>5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, and 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs: Doreen Clooney (Sandra, founder of the hospice movement (1) 9.45 Feedback: Chris Durrley airs comments on BBC programmes and policy 10.00-10.30 News: The Lion in the Sand (Film only): The legacy of the missionaries in the Middle East who left the Arabs with a western perspective of Christianity and a European view of the world 10.30 An Act of Worship (LW only) 10.15 The Pilgrim's Progress (LW only): Final part of John Bunyan's classic (1) 10.30 Women's Hour, introduced by Alison Hildard. Serial: The Cold Women 11.30 The Natural History Programme, presented by Joanna Pinnock 12.00 News; You and Yours 12.25pm The Food Programme: David Sainsbury talks to Derek Cooper 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Classic Serial: The Diary of Samuel Pepys. The last of six episodes dramatised by Neville Smith 3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.35 Kaleidoscope: Live from the South Bank Centre. Tim Marlow goes to an exhibition of the French artist Yves Klein</p>	<p>4.45 Short Story: Tea and Dancing, by Ronald Frame. Radio 4's Lynn Farnleigh (1) 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Places: David Stafford explores South Wales and leisure issues 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Book of the Week, with Christopher 8.05 Any Questions? Marlene Campbell MP, Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesperson, on the Secretary of State, Alton Norman, health administrator, and Joyce Cuth Allister, Birmingham, Jonathan Dimbleby is chairman 8.50 Law in Action: Marcel Barthe reports from South Africa as the country's new constitutional court prepares to start work 9.15 Letter from America, by Alister Cooke 9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: The importance of The Importance (1). See Choice 8.55 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45 David Sainsbury: Mouth of a Poet. In a new poem, Simon Armitage investigates the socialist Victor Gollancz who won a parliamentary seat in 1907 but disappeared from his home ten years later 11.30-12.30am Midnight Oil</p>

RADIO 1: FM 97.9-98.5. RADIO 2: FM 88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1815m; FM 82.4-94.5. LW 198. RADIO 5: 63kHz/433m; 908kHz/530m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/281m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1568kHz/194m; FM 94.9, 95.9, 96.9, 97.9, 98.9. CLASSIC FM: FM 94.9; WORLD SERVICE: MW 618kHz/463m. CLASSIC FM: FM 90-102. VIRGIN: MW 1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Depp and Gillian Massey

SWIMMING 35

FEDERATION LEFT
FLOUNDERING BY
CHAMPION'S OMISSION

SPORT

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10 1995

RUGBY UNION 36

WALES LOOK TO
EVANS FOR LEAD
AGAINST ENGLAND

Chelsea to ban hooligan fans

FA determined
to find 'root
cause' of trouble

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

INVESTIGATIONS into football's latest crowd disorder, which marred the FA Cup fourth-round replay between Chelsea and Millwall at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday night, will continue into next week. The Football Association has not ruled out holding an inquiry, but will not make a decision until it has gathered all the evidence.

"We were in touch with our crowd control observer at the match within minutes of the trouble erupting," Mike Parry, an FA spokesman, said yesterday. "Talks continued through the night and we are collating all the reports. We are determined to find the root cause and do all in our power to prevent a repeat. It was a totally unacceptable situation. Investigations are proceeding speedily, but we also feel a moral obligation to look into the incidents that happened outside the ground. Until we have spoken with our observer, the police and officials from both clubs, it is too early to talk of an inquiry."

Trouble flared after Millwall, the Endsleigh Insurance League first division club, defeated Chelsea, from the FA Carling Premiership, 5-4 on penalties after the match had finished 1-1 after extra time. Chelsea supporters from the lower tier of the new North Stand spilt onto the pitch and

fought with stewards and police. Twenty mounted officers were used to help to quell the violence.

Dave Mitchell, the Millwall forward and former Chelsea player, was pushed to the ground and spat on as he tried to leave the pitch, and there were sporadic skirmishes in the streets surrounding Stamford Bridge after the match. Thirty-three arrests were made — 19 Chelsea supporters and 14 from Millwall — and 11 police officers injured.

Colin Hutchinson, the Chelsea managing director, said:

Aimless Arsenal 38

"We have already started our own comprehensive inquiry. We will be studying in minute detail the closed circuit video tapes to identify the culprits. Chelsea hold a database of 30,000 members, including photographs, and we will institute exclusion orders on those traced."

"We would expect Millwall to act likewise and we hope the ringleaders will be prosecuted and convicted with tough sentences. We are saddened that a few spectators — and we stress, a few — have tarnished Chelsea and football. We don't want them at Stamford Bridge."

Martin Bodenham, the referee, confirmed he would report to the FA the incident in which a lone supporter from the Chelsea section ran on to the pitch, forcing play to be stopped, but said that the after-match trouble did not come under his jurisdiction.

Since the post-Hillsborough Taylor report, crowd disturbances at English grounds have declined. Revamped, all-seater stadiums without perimeter fencing have contributed to a widespread feeling that the hooligan problem, while not having disappeared, had at least been controlled. However, Birmingham City, Manchester City and Millwall have been fined, and received warnings that they might have to play games behind closed doors, after incidents in the past three years.

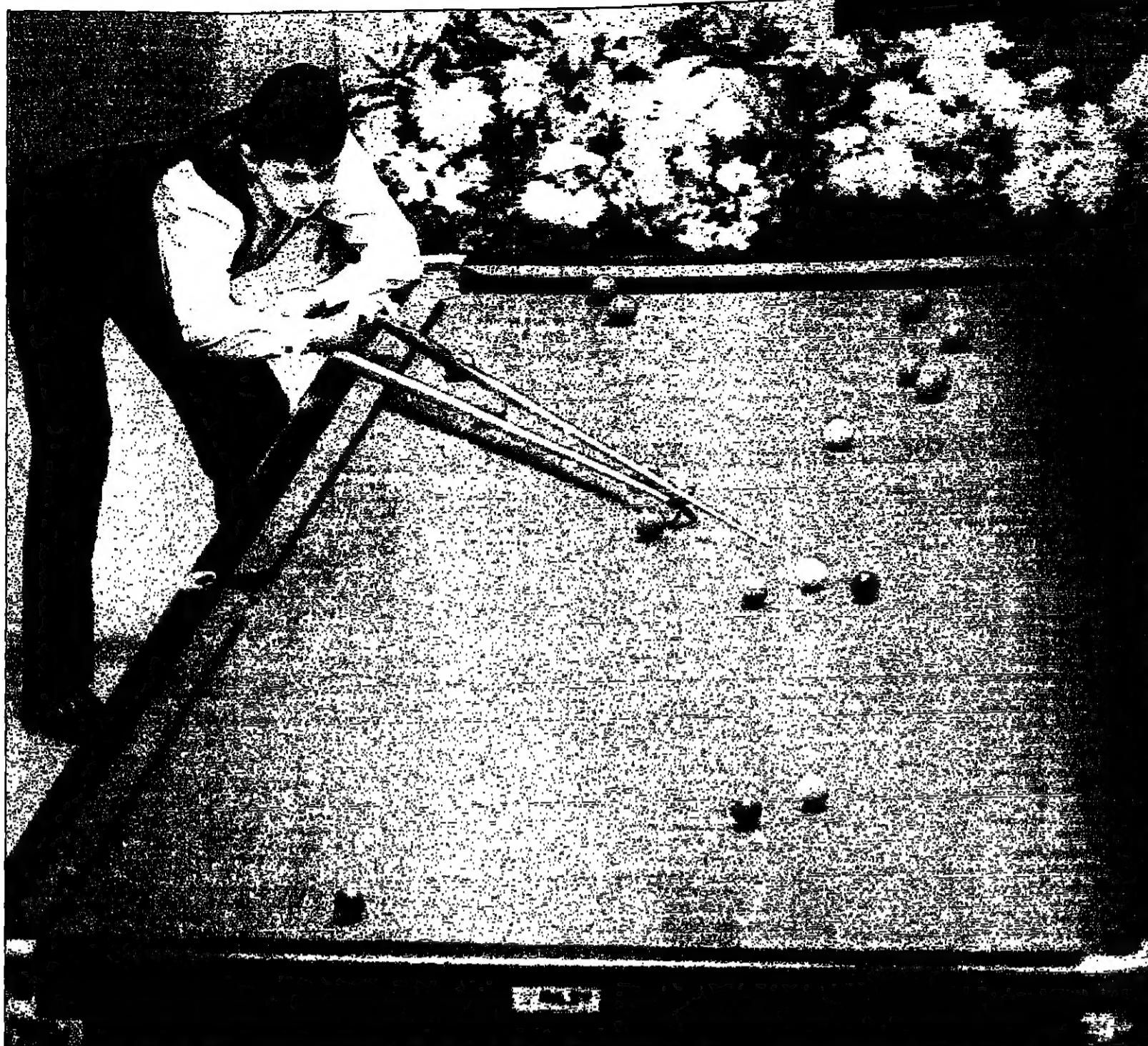
The last serious disorder at Stamford Bridge came in 1988, after Chelsea had lost a first division relegation play-off tie against Middlesbrough. The club was fined £75,000.

Chelsea are unlikely to be treated any more harshly by the FA when it completes its deliberations. However, the recent incidents involving Eric Cantona, the Manchester United forward who kicked a Crystal Palace supporter after being sent off at Selhurst Park, and the Blackburn Rovers supporter who ran onto the pitch to confront Rodger Gifford, the referee, after the 1-1 draw with Manchester United at Wood Park, have perhaps set a worrying new trend.

Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, said: "I hope we are not going back to the hooligan-dominated days of a decade or so ago. Great strides have been made in recent years over crowd control." Mark Agate, secretary of the National Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs, said: "Fans should never go on the pitch, it is as simple as that. But these are not true football supporters. We are against bringing the fences back, in principle, but maybe individual clubs have to make their own decisions on this."



A supporter is led away by police at Stamford Bridge



McManus, the champion, on his way to defeat by Higgins in the Benson and Hedges Masters tournament at Wembley yesterday

Wild-card Higgins brings down champion

By PHIL YATES

THE reign of Alan McManus as Benson and Hedges Masters snooker champion ended at Wembley Conference Centre yesterday when he was beaten 5-2 by John Higgins, a wild-card entry, in the quarter-finals.

Higgins, 19, has played with great maturity throughout the season and this latest performance was a further indication that he has developed into one of the circuit's toughest competitors.

Many of his contemporaries are talented snooker players but few, if any, possess the same ability to ignore setbacks. Higgins lets little affect

him, as he demonstrated by producing a high-quality display, despite losing the first frame to a stroke of bad luck.

Higgins made a 62-break on his first visit to the table and, with just the colours remaining, McManus required two snookers to take the frame. However, McManus got them. He fluked the yellow, obtained reasonable position on the green and then cleared up to steal the frame, at 50 minutes the longest of the event, on the black ball.

If Higgins was demoralised, he certainly did not show it. He won the second frame with a fluently compiled break of 85 and it was obvious from that point on that he would not be

overwhelmed either by his opponent's reputation or the importance of the occasion.

McManus, who beat Stephen Hendry 9-8 in last year's final, regained the lead at 2-1 with runs of 55 and 63 — his only contributions of note throughout the match — but it was to be his last success of an afternoon in which Higgins outplayed him in every department.

Higgins, who had already beaten Tony Drago and Darren Morgan earlier in the week, potted a difficult long blue to level at 2-2 before he dominated the following three frames with breaks of 59, 40, and 104. Higgins will now play either Jimmy White or

James Wattana in a best-of-11 frame semi-final tomorrow.

McManus, who first realised that Higgins was going to be a force in the game five years ago while watching him practise in a Glasgow club, said: "The way John is playing is no surprise to me. He's on a roll and he played superbly. I've got no complaints whatsoever and I genuinely think he's confident enough at the moment to go on and win the tournament."

Higgins is now guaranteed at least £30,000 and is only two victories away from scooping the £120,000 first prize.

"It's already been a great tournament for me and I'm really looking forward to my

next match," he said. "When you start beating top players on a regular basis, it gives your confidence a real boost. I couldn't feel better about my game and I'm relishing every moment of it."

One of the fiercest rivalries in the game is renewed this evening when Hendry, attempting to win the tournament for the sixth time in seven years, meets Peter Ebdon. While respecting Ebdon, Hendry appears to regard him as an upstart. The fact that Ebdon once advised the world champion to take his golf clubs to Dubai where they were due to meet in the first round there, has not improved their relationship.

Brilliance of Ballesteros belies stated ambition

FROM MEL WEBB
IN LAS PALMAS

OVER the years, words have been spilt in their millions as writers all over the globe have sought to define the genius of Severiano Ballesteros. The man himself has always let his actions speak for him, and they did so again yesterday in a gem-studded sequence of five holes in the first round of the Canary Islands Open at Maspalomas.

Ballesteros, who had a 68, four under par, to share the lead with Philip Walton, Paul Eales and Gary Orr, started his magical mystery tour on the 11th after a birdie on the 7th and a bogey on the 8th had taken him to the turn in a level-par 36. He was all of 40 feet from the flag

when he lined up his putt, and, using the "Fat Lady" mallet-headed putter that had been a gift from Nick Price in the Johnnie Walker Classic in Manila two weeks before, rolled the putt in as if it were a "gimme".

That was good, but even better was to come on the next. Like his playing partners, Gordon Brand Jr and Peter Baker, he was about 60 yards from the pin off the tee. Both Brand Jr and Baker threw the ball high in the air and were faced with medium-length putts for birdies.

Alone of the trio, Ballesteros had the imagination to see an option, and played an exquisite low running pitch that bumped into the bank of the two-tiered green, then checked on its second bounce and drew to a halt less than a foot from the hole. It

was breathtaking stuff, the sort of shot that will long be remembered by those who saw it.

If that stroke had the touch of a maestro, the birdie that followed on the 13th was contrived with the showmanship of a fairground bark-

Las Palmas scores page 36

er. Ballesteros under-clubbed his second shot and was left several yards from the front of the green and 45 feet from the pin.

There was a silence as Billy Foster, Ballesteros's caddy, was sent to attend the flag. This was barefaced cheek, surely. Could he really be going for it on one of Maspalomas's

tricky greens? He could, and was unable to prevent a smile from creasing his face as the ball ran up to the hole, hit the back lip and bounced up and in. The Fat Lady had sung another show-stopper.

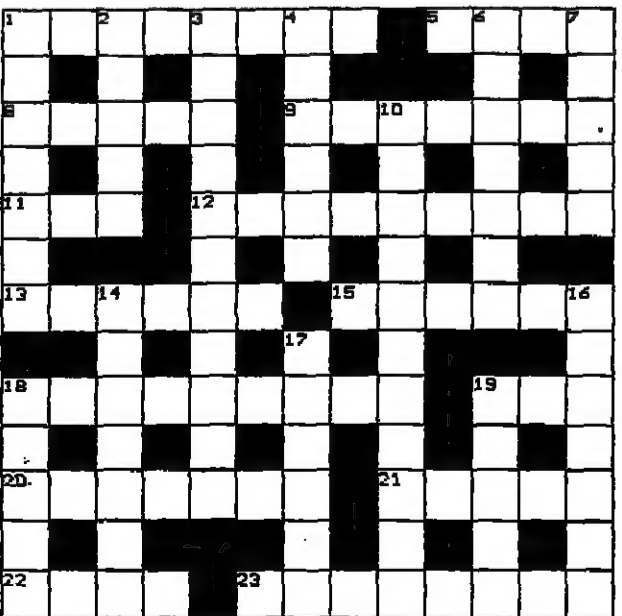
That made him three under par with five to play, and on the 15th he made his fifth birdie of the round after he had played another remarkable pitch, again from 60 yards or so, to a yard. The leaderboard operators, who on the previous green had labelled him simply as "Seve B", placed his name alongside Eales, Walton and Orr at the top of the list.

That gained, he was not going to concede his advantage, and playing directly into the face of a freshening breeze that made things tricky on an otherwise flawlessly sunny day, he

had three pars to finish a round that had contained the sort of golf that makes him unique.

His job done, Ballesteros spoke of his round with quiet satisfaction. "My ball-striking was very good today, and I played very well," he said, and continued, tongue being thrust more firmly into cheek. "The wind was very difficult, and my round was probably worth two shots better than my score. But I don't want to say too much — I want to continue to be humble, as I have always been."

Ballesteros said on Wednesday he was playing here simply to get the feel of competing again. Those who know him doubted if that was the limit of his ambitions this week. Yesterday they were proved right.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD
No 392

ACROSS

- 1 (Esp. Whitehall) war memorial (8)
- 2 Young cow (4)
- 3 Pinch together; curl (hair) tightly (5)
- 4 Tiny suspicion (7)
- 5 Cooked dish in pastry (3)
- 6 Illicit liquor; nightlight (9)
- 7 Bird, big coloured bill (6)
- 8 Looked for (6)
- 9 Foolish, wrong (behaviour) (9)
- 10 Complete the letter I (3)
- 11 Funeral procession (7)
- 12 From the largest continent (5)
- 13 Notice, attention (4)
- 14 Car-repairer (8)

SOLUTION TO NO 391

ACROSS: 4 Bat 8 Torture 9 Round 10 Churn 11 Linctus 12 Sergeant 14 Omen 15 Wish 16 Distance 20 Oil well 21 Niche 23 Set in 24 Fertile 25 Sit

DOWN

- 1 Pilot's place in plane (7)
- 2 Unsophisticated (5)
- 3 Flexible length-checking device (4-7)
- 4 Place of confinement (6)
- 5 Permanent (7)
- 6 Musical form: state of forgetfulness (5)
- 7 Endorsement bringing fatal results (4,2,5)
- 8 Sudden swift rise (7)
- 9 Enormous (7)
- 10 Stick (to) (6)
- 11 OT prophet, book (5)
- 12 Condescend (5)

This position is from the game Howell - Luther, Hastings 1995. Black has a powerful passed pawn on e3. How did he make the most of it?

Solution, page 36
Raymond Keene, page 8

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PALSA

- a. Mille-feuille pasta
- b. A wooden practice sabre
- c. A frozen peat ridge

PUNGLE

- a. A beagle/alsatian cross
- b. A spiked trap
- c. To contribute

RICORDO

- a. A painter's copy
- b. An echo
- c. A heart-warming stimulant

OSOTOGARI

- a. Rotten fishy condiment
- b. A throw at Judo
- c. Italian octopus-divers

Answers on page 36

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